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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIV, Issue No. 175 | WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 2014 | www.saipantribune.com | 75¢

Students of the newly reconfigured Dandan Middle School wait for their turn at lunch in a line outside their cafeteria.
DENNIS B. CHAN

MHS, GES at all-time high; new middle schools open

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Of the 10,000-plus and growing public school students, Marianas High School holds the largest number of students as of yesterday with 1,576—an all-time high; Garapan Elementary leads elementary schools with 805 students, and Hopwood Junior High School leads middle schools and junior high schools with 755 students—a decrease of about 400 from last year, according to Public School System officials.

There are more than 10,200 PSS students, with the number expected to surpass last year's overall population as registration is still ongoing until this Friday, according to PSS' Central Office.

Numbers obtained from PSS for the island's new middle schools late last Friday has Chacha Oceanview Middle School with about 320 students, Dan-

See SCHOOLS on Page 4

Hospital CFO resigns

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Barely three months into his new job, Jack Taitague has resigned as chief financial officer of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., turning in his 30-day notice and leaving the corporation once again with an open position for a financial chief.

» Perel, Ada to work with CHC on financial accounting system

Taitague turned in his resignation last Thursday, according to CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña.

Taitague came aboard CHCC on June 2 with a two-year contract and a salary of $90,000 per annum. He resigned not long before his 90-day probation period finished.

The hospital hasn't had a perma-

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Each Saipan lawmaker gets extra $2.5K to spend by Sept. 30

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Each of the 20 Saipan lawmakers stands to get $2,500 in "operational funds" from the Rota Legislative Delegation's recent $50,000 partial payment of longtime debts and they have until Sept. 30 to spend it. But some lawmakers interviewed yesterday said they're uncertain how or where they can spend the money on.

» But some lawmakers uncertain how to spend it

Some Saipan lawmakers believe this is the first time or at least the only time in recent period that operational funds are given to each member of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Rota lawmakers got the $50,000 partial payment from a recent $2-million appropriation each for Rota and Tinian, taken from the $30-million advance license fee that exclusive Saipan casino developer Best Sunshine International Ltd. paid the government.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the now 20-member Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, issued a memorandum yesterday to SNILD members, informing them that they have been appor-

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BUSINESS
President Obama renews his push for Congress to raise the minimum wage.
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WORLD
Syrian rebels clash with government troops in the Golan Heights.
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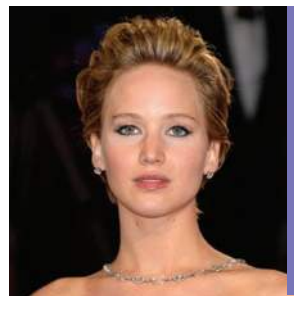

LIFE & STYLE
The FBI is looking into the posting of celebrities' nude photos online.
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GOT A NEWS TIP?
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Local

‘Shy Girl’ recalls two sex encounters with Roberto

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The second of three alleged victims continued her testimony in federal court yesterday, in which she recalled having sex encounters twice, including a foursome, with Raymond B. Roberto, at Parkville Motel in Gualo Rai in 2013.

After the second alleged victim completed her testimony, the prosecution called to the witness stand the third alleged victim.

Roberto’s lead counsel David J. Lujan is expected to continue questioning the third alleged victim when trial resumes today at 10am.

In the continuation of her testimony yesterday morning, the second 16-year-old girl, allegedly tagged by Roberto as “Shy Girl,” mostly replied, “I don’t remember” or “I don’t know” to the questions by the prosecution and defense counsel.

During questioning by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rami S. Badawy, “Shy Girl” said that during the second incident inside the motel room, she went inside the restroom while Roberto and her female friend were in the bedroom.

She said she does not know what Roberto and her friend were doing at the time as it was dark, said “Shy Girl,” who kept fiddling with the microphone and swinging her chair during her testimony.

When asked if she had clothes at that time, “Shy Girl” said she does not remember. She, however, recalled getting on the bed and having sex with Roberto.

She said she later went to the restroom to shower, leaving her friend and Roberto on the bed. The three of them later left the motel and Roberto dropped the two of them in Finasisu, where they were staying at that time.

“Shy Girl” said Roberto gave her and her friend money in that second incident. She said she does not remember the amount. After that incident, she said she did not see Roberto again.

Badawy then asked her about the first incident (alleged foursome) in the same motel with Roberto, reiterating the same questions that “Shy Girl” refused to answer during her testimony last Friday.

This time, “Shy Girl” replied to the questions. She said Roberto did not do anything to her but that she and her friend gave oral sex to Roberto, who was touching the third girl on the bed.

“Shy Girl” said she does not consider oral sex as sex.

When shown a letter dated Aug. 8, 2013, the second alleged victim recognized it as her letter, where she threatened the 41-year-old Roberto and demanded $400 cash from him. “Shy Girl” admitted that she threatened Roberto, but downplayed it as “nothing, it’s just paper.”

She said it was the first alleged victim’s idea to write the letter. She said her friend wrote the letter first, then she copied some of the contents by just changing some words. She said her friend told her that her mother would deliver their separate letters to Roberto.

“Shy Girl” said she got Roberto’s cell phone number because her friend (first alleged victim) used her cell phone in communicating with the defendant.

During cross-examination by Lujan, “Shy Girl” said her friend (the first alleged victim) introduced her to the third girl at school only last year.

“Shy Girl” agreed with Lujan that she did not mention Roberto’s name during several interviews with detectives and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents.

When Lujan asked her to look at a report to refresh her memory, “Shy Girl” said she didn’t want to because she’s tired.

This prompted U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona to call for a lunch break. After lunch, Lujan continued cross-examining “Shy Girl.”

When the examination of “Shy Girl” was completed, the prosecution called the alleged third victim to the witness stand.

The third alleged victim, who is also 16 years old, recounted her and the two girls’ foursome with Roberto at Parkville Motel last year.

The girl testified that Roberto picked them up in Kagman, brought them to Parkville Motel where they had a foursome, went to a cockpit where the defendant gave them $100 each, and then dropped them off.

When Lujan asked about her stay in a sanctuary in Guam, the third girl replied, “How’s that relevant?”

She agreed with Lujan that Roberto, who she called “Jerald,” never threatened her. She also stated that she was aware of the two letters that her two friends sent to Roberto to demand $400 each.

The third alleged victim said she was not present when her friends wrote the letters. She stated she could not remember how she became aware of the letters.

She said she could not remember telling investigators that her friend (first victim) asked her not to cry after the incident in the motel. She said she also could not recall telling investigators that she asked her friend (first victim) why she left her in bed with Roberto.

Roberto, a former acting director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, is on trial for three counts of enticing three minors to engage in prostitution and one count of witness tampering.

Suspected vandals lit up Chamolinian Utt

A hut was lit on fire by suspected vandals last Sunday at the Chamolinian Cultural Village in Garapan. DENNIS B. CHAN

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

A drooping roof is all that remains over a pavilion’s largely exposed and darkly charred frame at the Chamolinian Cultural Village in Garapan, as suspected vandals lit it on fire Labor Day morning, according to Carolinian Affairs Office director Joe Limes.

“They burned it,” he said.

Limes gathered from police that the incident occurred at 12:45am Sunday morning.

He said he has not has been notified of any leads in the incident, adding that the Chamolinian Utt was only about 1 month old.

“I’m still waiting for the police,” he said.

According to Limes, it is not the first time vandals have cause grief in the area.

“Last month, they put water in the forklift. They opened the gas tank and put water inside,” he said.

The prank, he said, forced a staff member to overhaul the forklift’s tank.

“[The staff member] was really upset,” he said.

Then two nights ago, Limes said, vandals hit again, this time burning the demonstrator and artist’s hut in the cultural village.

“I don’t know what’s their problem. If they have anything they don’t agree [with] or they dislike what we are doing here for our culture, please come by and share [it] with us.”

He asked the community for their help, saying, “This is our village, our cultural village that we would like to promote our cultures.”

According to Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality enforcement officer Benjamin Norita, the huts currently under construction in the area were permitted by his department. He said they were expected to be all completed in October.

“Someone that’s smart enough did this when the police we’re not around here,” he said of the fact that it was done on Labor Day.

He expressed disappointment over the incident and said that if such acts were the case, he’d think someone would need to oversee the area at night.

“I don’t want to put DPS on the spotlight but this is a ridiculous act,” he said.

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Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Printing funded by the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Grant under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration.

$800K Saipan land compensation could hit snag

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Over 200 Saipan families whose private properties were taken by the government for roads and other public uses may have to wait a little longer to receive a total of $800,000 in land compensation payments because of questions about the law itself.

Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio said yesterday there is "no firm" date yet as to when the payments will be made "as there are questions about the public law."

House Local Bill 18-45, Draft 1 became Saipan Local Law 18-19 without the governor's signature on July 19.

Within 60 days of the bill becoming local law, the land payments have to be made. That would be around Sept. 19, a little over two weeks from today.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos has long been considering going the route of a certified question to get legal guidelines for pending judgments or obligations such as land compensation. But as of yesterday, that certified question has yet to be submitted as of yesterday.

The $800,000 comes from the Managaha landing fees that are in the Department of Public Lands custody.

There are questions, however, whether these Managaha landing fees are to be considered "land leases" or "fees," and whether they could indeed be used to pay for land compensations.

Under the $800,000 land compensation payment local law, at least 223 Saipan landowners will get anywhere from 89 cents to over $190,000 based on DPL data.

Rep. Anthony Benavente (Ind-Saipan), author of the land compensation bill, plans to introduce another bill appropriating some $2 million in remaining Managaha landing fees also to pay Saipan landowners whose properties were taken by the government for public use.

House Education chair: Provide NMC more funds to meet MOE

»Budget conferees meet today, tomorrow

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Education Committee chair Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan) suggests giving the Northern Marianas College an additional $300,000 or at least $157,000 to meet the U.S. Department of Education's maintenance-of-efforts requirements, even as members of the bicameral committee that will come up with a "compromise" fiscal year 2015 budget meet today and tomorrow.

"At the minimum, give NMC additional funding that will allow it to comply with the MOE requirements. …We cannot just ignore NMC," Benavente said.

While the Senate gave the Public School System an additional $1.6 million to at least meet its MOE requirements, it has not done so with NMC.

NMC Board of Regents chair Frank Rabauliman and other NMC officials met yesterday afternoon with House vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), among others, on Capital Hill. The NMC officials continued to press for additional financial support from lawmakers.

The college said the Senate's over $4.835 million budget proposal for NMC "severely compromises" the college's ability to meet the College Access Challenge Grant MOE requirement for fiscal year 2015. If the CNMI fails to meet the MOE requirement, NMC stands to lose its $1.392 million award under this program for fiscal year 2015.

House budget conference chair Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and Senate budget conference chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) issued a joint memo yesterday calling for a joint committee meeting at 9am today and tomorrow.

The six-member conference committee is tasked to come up with a $134.33-million spending plan for 2015 that is acceptable to both the House and the Senate.

Without a new budget law in place by Oct. 1, the start of the new fiscal year, the CNMI government would have to partially shut down once again.

The House rejected a Senate-amended budget bill over what they deem as an unconstitutional provision pertaining to the offsetting of the government's $400,000 debt to Bridge Capital LLC for non-payment of La Fiesta leases, salary increases, and advance quarterly allotments, among other things.

ADB report: Privatization helps grow state-owned enterprises

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—A new Asia Development Bank report says privatisation could be crucial to improving the performance of state-owned enterprises in the Pacific.

The report, Finding Balance 2014, has been launched at the Small Islands Developing States conference in Samoa.

The study shows state-owned enterprises in Solomon Islands saw a 21-percent increase in the 10 years to 2012 because of increased privatization, public-private partnerships, and financial restructuring.

It says in Samoa, SOE privatization of the telecommunications and broadcasting sectors has delivered more investment, competition, and improved services.

The ADB's vice president, Stephen Groff, says most SOEs continue to be a drag on growth in island economies.

"It really depends on specific sectors, specific countries and the contexts for looking, really, at the continued need for efforts to corporatize, to bring efficiencies into these SOEs and also then looking, ultimately, at opportunities for privatization as they are available and applicable to certain kinds of service delivery and provisions of services."

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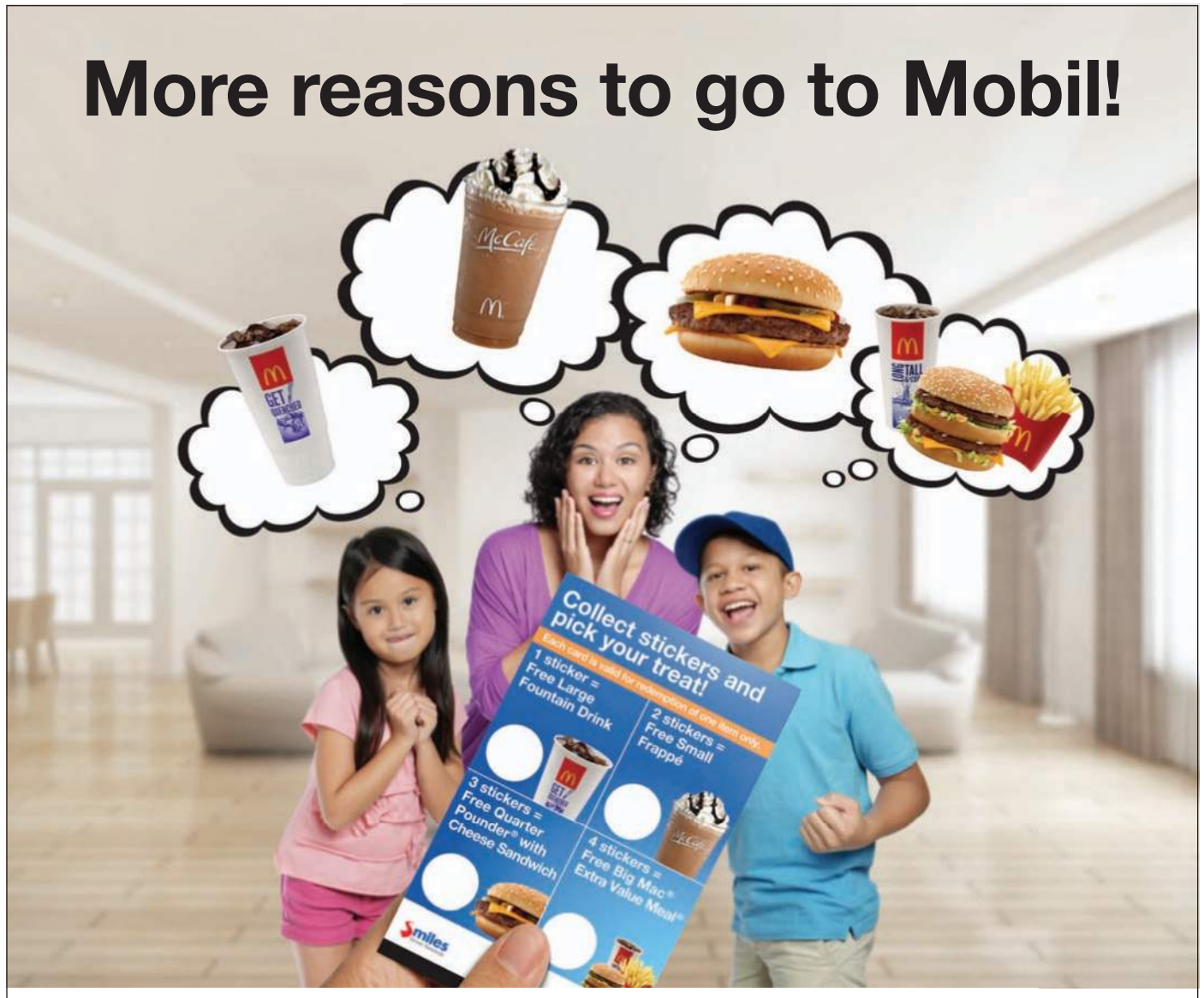
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Pacific's largest solar array opens in Samoa

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The largest solar array in the South Pacific has been officially opened in the middle of a racecourse in Apia.

The Faleata racecourse project includes a 2.2-megawatt photovoltaic array, and alongside two smaller arrays will deliver 4.5 percent of Samoa's energy needs renewably.

The 10,000 panel solar energy project is funded by New Zealand, the European Union, and Samoa.

The country is turning to solar, wind and hydro energy as a way to cut back on its heavy reliance on diesel fuel.

The European Commissioner, Andris Piebalgs, says this is just one of many renewable energy partnerships it has with New Zealand in the Pacific.

"We have a New Zealand Energy Summit and are focussing our aid on renewable energy. It is a lot of projects implemented, not only in Samoa but also in Tonga, Cook Islands and a lot of small islands."

Andris Piebalgs says it is possible that nearly all Pacific islands could rely on completely renewable energy.

NCD prevention should focus on young people

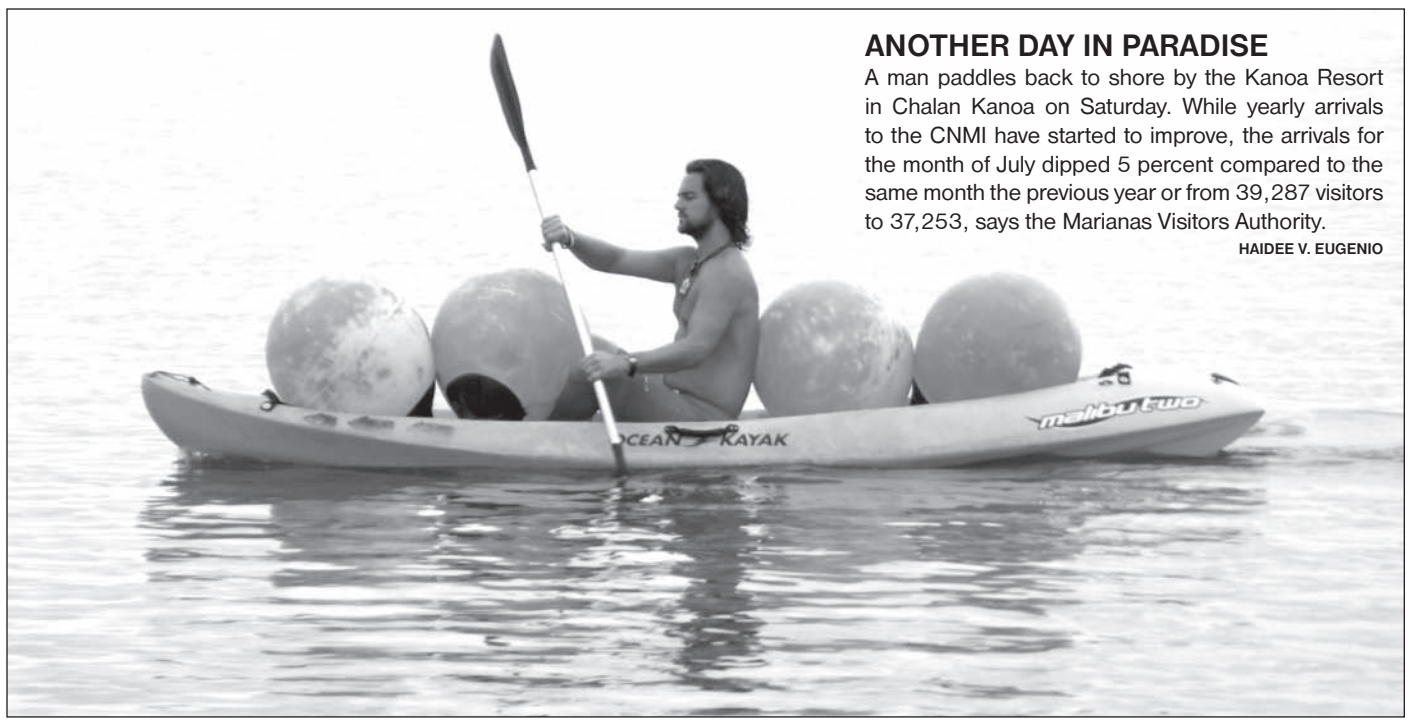
APIA, Samoa—The Youth Forum preceding the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia, Samoa, began ON AUG. 28. Around 260 young people from the Pacific, Caribbean and AIMS (Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea) regions have gathered to discuss the priorities that they will take forward into the coming week of meetings and events at the SIDS Conference.

Dr. Colin Tukuitonga, director-general of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, met with Youth Forum delegates to discuss the issues of health and non-communicable diseases, social development, youth and disability. Of these, Tukuitonga emphasized the challenge of NCDs for the Pacific region: "We have more obese children than ever before. Overweight and obese children are likely to stay obese into adulthood and are more likely to develop NCDs like diabetes and cardiovascular diseases at a younger age."

The Pacific has outpaced the world in mortality from NCDs. In the Pacific, 75 percent of all deaths annually are due to NCDs and as much as 60 percent of the health care budgets in some Pacific Island countries and territories are going toward expensive, overseas care. And because NCDs often result in premature death (before age 60), they contribute to poverty and lower workforce productivity, which in turn affects national development.

To address NCDs, Tukuitonga said the focus must be on prevention, particularly in supporting healthy lifestyles for children and youth. He highlighted the regional coordinated effort—the Pacific Partnership for a Multi-sector Approach to Prevent and Control NCDs—to strengthen the capacity and expertise to support response efforts in Pacific countries. He said expanding the response to increase the focus on prevention means addressing the risk factors that are often present in childhood, adolescence and youth and he urged the young audience to avoid sugary carbonated drinks and to work together to address smoking among their peers.

Tukuitonga said, "Addressing NCDs and focusing on the youth population will result in a healthier, more productive society, which will in turn contribute opportunities for economic growth. With half the region's population being under 25 years, this is imperative." ***(SPC)***



ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE
A man paddles back to shore by the Kanoa Resort in Chalan Kanoa on Saturday. While yearly arrivals to the CNMI have started to improve, the arrivals for the month of July dipped 5 percent compared to the same month the previous year or from 39,287 visitors to 37,253, says the Marianas Visitors Authority.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

SCHOOLS

From Page 1

dan Middle School with about 330 students and San Antonio Middle School with 321 students.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan did not disclose up-to-date counts since more precise numbers for all the schools would be available Friday.

Available numbers from a Board of Education meeting last month had the public school's Early Intervention Program with 84 infants and toddlers; the Head Start program with 462 children; Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary, 321, Kagman Elementary, 400; Garapan Elementary, 814; Oleai Elementary, 451; San Vicente Elementary, 670; William S. Reyes Elementary, 676; Koblerville Elementary, 158; Kagman High School, 655; and Saipan Southern High, 807.

For Rota and Tinian, Sinapalo Elementary on Rota had 182 students, Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. Sr. High School also on Rota had 230, while Tinian Elementary had 274 and Tinian Jr. Sr. High School School had 271.

In an interview last Friday, Sablan said it would be safe to say that PSS would have anywhere around 10,000 to 10,400 students for the new school year.

Middle schools

Opening this school year are the island's three new middle schools: Dandan Middle School, Tanapag Middle School, and San Antonio Middle School.

The schools were previously elementary schools but were reconfigured to accommodate the overcrowding in the island's junior high schools.

Jonas Barcinas, Hopwood principal, thanked the commissioner for pushing the new middle school concept—which is aligned with Guam and schools in the U.S. mainland—with Hopwood experiencing it's "first-ever decrease" in students.

He said they had about 1,200 students previously, but now they have 755.

Speaking on behalf of his teachers, Barcinas said they are excited for the new school concept as Hopwood is not as "over-cramped" as before.

"Teachers can really have a one-to-one [interaction with students]. They can spend more time with kids that are academically or behaviorally challenged," he said.

With more middle schools, there would be more opportunities for academic and sports competition among schools, he said.

Barcinas said the lower number of students means instruction and meeting the children's needs are more "doable," as last year's classroom sizes of 40 to 45 students stretched the capabilities and resources of teachers.

He hopes smaller classrooms will allow teachers to give students the attention they need.

Lynn Mendiola, a former vice principal at Hopwood who is now principal of the Dandan Middle School, reiterated Barcinas' sentiment.

"A lot of the students that came in from Hopwood, they're experiencing some shock because they said it's a lot smaller compared to Hopwood where [there were] 1,200 students and here there is only like close to 400," she said.

She expects the learning environment to be a lot better with smaller classrooms. "It'll a lot be more intimate and a lot of the students will get to know each other more, and teachers will know every single student compared to Hopwood," she said.

Mendiola said PSS has given them enough funds for a "smooth transition" into a middle school.

"We were able to purchase middle school materials, I was able to get all my staff as well as some furniture to open the schools," she said.

Mendiola said their student-to-teacher ratio is good with the highest amount in a class being 24 students. Parents have also been largely compliant with registering their kids to their new schools.

"This morning we had about 20 or 30 students that have not registered, so it's not that bad. We were expecting more," she said.

James Sablan, of San Antonio Middle School, said the transition has been "smooth" and that teachers have helped with being very accommodating.

He also expects an increase in student numbers in the days ahead.

HOSPITAL

From Page 1

nent CFO since Alvaro Santos resigned in 2012 and the recent hiring of Taitague.

Muna told *Saipan Tribune* that although Taitague still has 30 days before he leaves, the hospital has already taken action in declaring Cora Ada as acting financial chief.

"We wish Taitague well and we have to think about things to be done in CHCC," Muña said.

Ada stepped down earlier this year as interim CFO but is taking on the post once more with Taisague's resignation.

Muña said that former Hawaii Healthcare System CFO Mike Perel will joining the corporation under a special contract arrangement by the end of this month to help with the hospital's financial system.

She said that Perel has vast experience in handling the finances of healthcare systems.

"He will work with the hospital and do an assessment and the accounting system to get CHCC in a better situation financially," Muña said.

She said the corporation is still looking for a CFO who meets the qualifications but the hospital is finding difficulties recruiting.

"Because there is not a lot of qualified people for the position, we need to look for one that is qualified and also get from off-island," she said.

"Work still has to be done here at CHCC and with Ada back and Perel who will help, the hospital will be fine," she added.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from Ada and Taitague but they could not be reached as of press time.

LAWMAKER

From Page 1

tioned $2,500 each "for SNILD operational expenditure" pursuant to the recently signed Rota Local Law 18-15, Section 1(B).

"Be advised that your office [has] until Sept. 30, 2014, to expend your allotted amount," Tebuteb said in his one-page memo.

In an interview, Tebuteb said the funds have to be spent on delegation functions but he said it would be up to each member to justify their spending on Saipan and the Northern Islands.

Just like the Northern Marianas Descent Corp., which was appropriated $100,000 from a local bill, Saipan lawmakers also have to justify the funds they are getting.

As delegation chairman and expenditure authority, Tebuteb serves as the "clearinghouse" for these funds.

Funds that are unspent would revert to the SNILD, Tebuteb said.

Rep. George Camacho (R-Saipan) said the $2,500 funding will be used "toward various community projects such as beautification efforts and repairs of some facilities."

"We will make sure it goes to good use," Camacho said.

Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday he's aware of the $2,500 funding for each Saipan lawmaker but he said he's seeking clarification how and where he can spend it.

Yumul, chairman of the House Tourism Committee, suggests that lawmakers pool their $2,500 together rather than spend them separately in their precincts, to improve a common tourist site.

"I believe this is the first time we're getting this kind of funding and we need clarification how we can spend it. Can lawmakers use it for precinct road repairs, for example?" he said.

He said, however, that as a member of the House of Representatives, all his expenses are accounted for and if there is any balance, he buys school supplies and distribute them to schools.

Other Saipan lawmakers asked last night, however, are not yet aware of the $2,500 apportionment.

Tebuteb said with the Rota Legislative Delegation's recent payment of $50,000, they now have only $240,000 remaining debt to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

The $50,000 partial payment was equally distributed among the 20 members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation. The delegation used to have 21 members, before lieutenant governor candidate Ray Yumul resigned as a senator.

Tebuteb, in his memo, also advised delegation members to see his staffer Lynn B. Duenas, "for processing of your SNILD expenses."

Section 1(B) of Rota Local Law 18-15 reads, "$50,000 for the payment of the debt owed to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation as appropriated in Saipan Local Law 16-4 under the expenditure authority of the chairman of SNILD."

That same Rota local law appropriated more than $1.6 million for Rota retirees' 25-percent pension, among other things.

'DO NOT DUMP' DENNIS B. CHAN

Yubert Alepuyo, right, Zoning Office enforcement officer, helps his co-worker Paul Lisua tag drainages in Garapan. Storm drains along Paseo de Marianas and the Garapan area have now been marked with "Do not dump" tags as part a greater interagency effort led by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality to prevent dumping of waste into the storm drains by people and businesses in the area.

'Asiana might be connection of Russian tourists to CNMI'

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Asiana Airlines might be the connection between three main cities in Russia catering to tourists to the CNMI to alleviate AviaCharter DV cancellations, according to Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio.

This was discussed during MVA's board meeting on Aug. 26 under the Russia Ad Hoc Committee's presentation on recommended measures, where the board approved a $5,000 budget for MVA's office in Russia.

MVA marketing specialist Tatiana Babauta told the board that as the discussion is made on searching flights to the CNMI from Khabarovsk, Vladivostok, and Sakhalin in Russia, AviaCharters is still resolving issues with its agreements with Orenburgh Airlines.

Tenorio said that they will continue their partnership with Asiana on the three Russian cities during the absence of AviaCharters.

"We want people to know that there is still that continued link and that they can still come to the CNMI via Asiana," Tenorio said in an earlier interview.

According to MVA's statement earlier this month, the cancellation of AviaCharters flights will have a negative impact worth $35 million to the CNMI.

AviaCharters was said to suspend their flights on Sept. 1, but due to an issue on the agreement with Orengburgh, AviaCharters went offline two weeks before its intended date. AviaCharters is expected to go online on Oct. 27 if issues are resolved.

Tenorio said that the pull out of AviaCharters affected four flights with 186-seater planes and impacted about 90 percent of arrivals from Russia.

According to the AviaCharters website, they have started canceling flights since Aug. 17 to Saipan and Guam, the latest being today, Sept. 3.

"We inform you that due to the refusal of Orenburgh Airlines fulfilling (sic) its contractual obligations since Aug. 17, flights have been cancelled," AviaCharters stated.

AviaCharters' agreement with Orenburg calls for a new program and introduction of a new plane, a Boeing 737-800.

AviaCharters concedes that the cancellations have impacted many Russian tourists and publicly apologized for the delay. It said that it will refund the money paid by tourists who have already made bookings and urged customers to contact their tour agents for compensation.

Tenorio said that Orenburgh sent "rescue flights" to the CNMI to pick up possible stranded tourists.

New local law OKs funeral homes in Chalan Kanoa

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider signed a local law on Friday amending the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 to allow funeral homes or crematorium in Chalan Kanoa.

» Acting governor also appoints CDA member

Hofschneider signed Rep. Ray Tebuteb's (Ind-Saipan) House Local Bill 18-55 into Saipan Local Law 18-20, amending the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 to include funeral homes as a conditional use in "village commercial zoning district."

The Borja Funeral Homes, currently in Oleai, is proposing to move to the former Carmen's Baby News Store in Chalan Kanoa. The plan is to build a funeral home or crematorium at the new location.

Hofschneider also appointed Ignacio Pangelinan Kiyoshi on Friday to serve on the Commonwealth Development Authority board of directors representing Tinian.

Kiyoshi's appointment requires the Senate's advice and consent. If confirmed, he will serve a four-year term beginning on the date of his confirmation.

"The governor and I are confident that Mr. Kiyoshi is qualified and will be an asset on this important board," Hofschneider said in a letter to Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

The acting governor, meanwhile, told *Saipan Tribune* that he is still reviewing the bill raising the cigarette tax.

2 suspects in robbery, kidnapping waive right to preliminary hearing

The two suspects in separate beatings that seriously injured two men whom they also robbed of their wallets and other items waived yesterday their right to a preliminary hearing.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato and court-appointed counsel Robert Myers, counsel for defendants Kesner Esefow and Donovan S. Ludwig respectively, informed the court of their decision to waive preliminary hearing.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted the defendants' request and set the arraignment for Monday, Sept. 8.

A preliminary hearing refers to a court proceeding in which a judge determines whether there is a sufficient evidence to hold a defendant for trial.

Esefow, 20, and Ludwig, 22, are being held on charges of robbery, kidnapping, assault with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault and battery, assault, and disturbing the peace. The two failed to post a $10,000 cash bail each.

The first victim, a 37-year-old Japanese male, sustained a brain contusion, a fractured nose, a fractured eye socket, and internal head bleeding.

The other victim, a 26-year-old Chamorro male, sustained a fractured right orbit below the eyeball, laceration on the back of the head, and a hemorrhage in the right eye.

Police said Esefow and Ludwig separately beat up the victims in Kagman and Garapan last Aug. 24. The suspects also allegedly took the victims' wallets and other items.

Prior to the beating, police said the four were drinking, eating, and swimming at a beach on Saipan. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, September 4, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
II. **Public Comments**[i]
III. **Reports**
   a. Chair's Report
   b. Executive Director's Report
IV. **New Business**
   a. Ratification of Table Movement Requests
   b. Casino Employee License Applications and Hotel Registrations
V. **Executive Session**[ii]
VI. **Miscellaneous/Administrative Matters**
VII. **Adjournment**

[1]Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Ms. Irene V. Cruz has resigned and is no longer working nor in any way affiliated with our companies **USA ISLANDS SEAFOOD, INC. or SAIPAN USA FISHERIES, INC. effective as of August 29, 2014.**

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTLITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF BUSINESS MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a business meeting at **10 a.m. on Thursday, September 4, 2014 at the CUC Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building** to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome. Reports and other documents relevant to the agenda will be available at the meeting for public inspection. Questions regarding the agenda should be referred to Ms. Rose Ada-Hocog, who serves as the Commission's administrative assistant at 670-989-1974.

AGENDA

1. **Administrative matters:**
   a. Call to order; approval of agenda; & determination of quorum
   b. Approval of minutes of the July 18, 2014 business meeting as continued on July 24, 2014
2. **Docket 13-01: CUC Electric Division**
   a. CUC petition dated August 8, 2014 regarding Tano fuel tank procurement.
   b. Commercial incentive tariff contract
3. **Other business**
4. **Public comments**

Judge wants to hear $6.5M deal with Hawaii law firm

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood will hear next week a joint motion to approve the $6.5-million settlement agreement with Betty Johnson's Hawaii-based counsel Bronster Hoshibata law firm.

In an order on Friday, Tydingco-Gatewood said she will hear on Sept. 9 the motion to approve the fee agreement between Bronster Hoshibata and the CNMI government.

Tydingco-Gatewood said there are two other pending matters before the court: the final motion for attorney's fees filed by Johnson's San Rafael, Calif.-based counsel, Timothy R. Lord, and the motion for approval of the settlement agreement between Johnson's original counsel, Bruce Jorgensen, and the CNMI government.

The judge placed both motions under advisement but said she does not believe a further hearing is necessary for these two.

» Judge asks Settlement Fund Trustee to present update on Fund status

After the hearing on Bronster Hoshibata's fee agreement, the Settlement Fund trustee, Civille and Tang law firm, through its principal representative Joyce C. H. Tang, shall present an update on the status of the Settlement Fund.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, the CNMI government, and Finance, through assistant attorney general Teresita J. Sablan, recently informed the court that they join Bronster Hoshibata's motion for approval of the attorney's fee deal.

Sablan said the Commonwealth maintains its position that Bronster Hoshibata law firm's fees should be limited to the lodestar amount without a multiplier.

However, Sablan said, the Commonwealth also recognizes that Tydingco-Gatewood could award an amount greater than the lodestar.

The Inos administration has agreed to settle Bronster Hoshibata's petition for attorney's fees and costs for payment of $6.5 million (to be paid over three years).

Bronster Hoshibata's original demand was for $17.5 million to be paid through installment.

The administration also settled for $185,000 and $800,000 the petitions for attorney's fees and costs filed by Johnson's other counsels Stephen C. Woodruff and Jorgensen, respectively.

The court had already approved Woodruff's settlement deal. Jorgensen's and Bronster Hoshibata's settlements are still subject to court's approval.

Lord's initial demand for payment of fees was either $3.6 million or $5.9 million. The CNMI opposed paying any fees to Lord.

Award of $1.4M traffic signal upgrade project is upheld

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman upheld yesterday the Procurement and Supply director's decision to award the Department of Public Works' traffic signal upgrade project to Radiocom Saipan Inc.

Wiseman determined that the Office of the Public Auditor did not make a mistake in denying the appeal of one of the bidders, Maeda Pacific Corp.

The judge also ruled that the Procurement and Supply director's decision was not arbitrary or capricious.

Wiseman said OPA's decision was well-reasoned, and that he supports and upholds its decision to give deference to the procuring agency in the absence of any evidence showing bad faith, fraud, bias, or conflict of interest.

Wiseman said he sees no reason to believe that Procurement and Supply lacked a reasonable basis for its decision to find Radiocom's bid as being unreasonable and without sufficient reason to question OPA's decision reviewing the Commonwealth's evaluation.

The judge upheld OPA's finding that the price evaluation of Radiocom's bid was not unreasonable.

Wiseman agreed with OPA that Maeda has failed to provide any evidence that would cast any shadow of a doubt on Radiocom's ability to obtain the necessary equipment or facilities to perform the work the contract provides for.

Thus, Wiseman said, the Procurement and Supply director's determination and OPA's decision on Maeda's protest do not rise to the level of arbitrary and capricious.

According to court records, Radiocom Saipan Inc. and Maeda Pacific Corp. were among those that responded to an invitation for bids on the traffic signal upgrade project.

After the bidding was closed, the director of Procurement and Supply announced its intent to award the winning bid to Radiocom, which was the lowest bidder at $1.4 million.

Maeda protested with the director of Procurement and Supply. After the director denied the protest, Maeda appealed to the Office of the Public Auditor.

OPA ruled against Maeda on May 10, 2013. Maeda, through counsel Juan T. Lizama, appealed that decision to the Superior Court.

Maeda claimed that Procurement and Supply and OPA's decision not to find Radiocom non-responsible and an unreasonable bidder are arbitrary and capricious acts.

Maeda also asked whether OPA erred in requiring Maeda to have the burden to prove that Radiocom was not a responsible bidder.

Radiocom, through counsel Victorino DLG. Torres, argued that the company is a responsible bidder, its bid was reasonable, and it properly completed the bid-schedules.

2014 Guam filmfest names official selections

HAGATÑA, GUAM—The Guam International Film Festival is scheduled to run its 4th annual fall event starting Sept. 23, 2014, through Sept. 28, 2014, at the Agaña Center Stadium Theatres. For 2014, the festival will showcase over 50 films, including films from 2014 Festival de Cannes, Sundance, Busan, Toronto, SXSW and more.

"This year is unbelievably amazing," said festival programmer and co-founder Kel Muña. "Along with the best in independent cinema from around the globe, I'm proud to announce that this year we have 11 official selections in the Made in the Marianas category. This is a new GIFF record for local and regional filmmaking in relation to the Marianas."

» Film festival launches Sep.23-Sep.28

This year, the GIFF call for entries brought in over 400 submissions from over 50 countries—the highest yet—exceeding the numbers from GIFF 2013. Among the films to be showcased will be 11 Guam-related films, 21 world premiers, 11 international premieres, 4 U.S. premieres and 15 Pacific-Asia premieres.

Centerpiece and closing night films

GIFF 2014 will feature the award-winning Japanese dramedy *Cicada* as its centerpiece film.

Directed by Dean Yamada, *Cicada* is the story of Jumpei, a man who loses sight of his progeny when he finds out he is infertile, but then is given the gift of clairvoyance and begins to see glimpses of the future. These glimpses lead him to a series of cicada shells, which become symbolic of his desire to shed his old self. Though his lineage ends with himself, Jumpei starts anew as a father figure to his sister's young son. *Cicada* is the winner of the Grand Jury Prize, Best Narrative Feature – Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival.

For the festival's closing night film, GIFF showcases an epic underwater adventure: *Revolution* brings you some of the most incredible wildlife spectacles ever recorded as audiences are brought face to face with coral reefs in Papua New Guinea to the rainforests in Madagascar as director Rob Stewart reveals that all of our actions are interconnected.

GIFF Visions Master Class

This year's GIFF Visions master Class will feature Pivot, one of Guam's top creative firms, for behind-the-scenes insight into the creative ad game and what it takes to succeed in a business that utilizes art with a purpose. Pivot has gained the confidence of many of Guam's blue-chip companies such as Atkins Kroll Motors, BankPacific, Marianas Finance, Guam Premier Outlets, Market Wholesale Distributors, and Lotte Duty Free, to name a few. Master Class panelists will include Tom Akigami, agency business and producer; Kaz Endo, chief creative evangelist and digital/brand architect; and Eric Tydingco, chief operations officer. The GIFF Visions Master Class will be free and open to the public.

GIFF mobile app

GIFF also announced the return of the GIFF App for iPhones and Android phones sponsored by FestPro. With the app, festival patrons will be able to personalize their own GIFF schedule and read synopses for the featured films and view movie trailers. The app upholds the festival's green incentive, alongside GIFF's paperless online submissions.

2014 grand jury

This year, GIFF adds a new member to the Grand Jury Panel, Mariana J., who has spent years immersed in the festival circuit producing the 48 Hour Film Project-Inland Empire festivals, San Diego IndieFest Film Stage in addition to consulting and judging for festivals such as the San Diego Film Festival, San Diego Asian Film Festival and more.

GIFF will also see the return of head juror, Tom Brislin, Ph.D., who is heading the 2014 GIFF Grand Jury Panel and has played a vital role in materializing the festival's community and educational outreach through his highly attended industry workshops during past GIFF festivals. Alongside Brislin on the panel are Gabrielle Kelley, associate professor of Arts at the New York University, Tisch Asia School of the Arts and co-founder of the International Alliance of Women Cinematographers; and Daniel Ferranti who has studied film at New York University and theater at University of Massachusetts Boston, and is a consultant for Warner Bros. Digital Distribution.

For more information including complete film listing and showtimes, visit the festival website at www.guamfilmfestival.org. ***(GIFF)***

MUSIC AND DANCE STUDIO CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of the Saipan Music and Dance Studio have their picture taken in preparation for their first recital, which was held on Aug. 31, 2014, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The studio has a total of 47 members, with ages ranging from 4 to 16 years old.

House resolution honors Chamorro, Carolinian cultures

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In observance of Cultural Heritage Month in September, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution giving special recognition to the CNMI's two distinct and unique cultural heritage: Chamorro and Carolinian.

"Each distinct culture defines who the indigenous people of the Northern Mariana Islands are and is deeply rooted, valued, and treasured," House Resolution 18-61, authored by Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), reads.

Every September, the CNMI observes Cultural Heritage Month, providing a framework for cultural activities, a time to display the unique and attractive aspects of these respective and valuable cultures, and to strengthen, preserve, and ensure they are passed on to future generations.

Among these events is a day set aside to honor Chief Aghurubw on Sept. 27, and all traditional chiefs, *magalahis* and *samwools*. Every year, the community celebrates Chief Aghurubw Day on Managaha Island, also a tourism gem.

Another one is a moment of silence in honor of the 13 fishermen who perished at sea in September 1986. A 13 Fishermen Monument along Beach Road in Garapan was built in their honor.

The use of traditional attire is also encouraged during Cultural Heritage Month.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

International Festival of Cultures kicks off Sept. 13

The Marianas Visitors Authority kicks off its newest annual signature event, the International Festival of Cultures, on Sept. 13, 2014. Organized in conjunction with the Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture and PDM Promoters, the festival will be staged for four consecutive Saturdays—Sept. 13, 20, and 27 and Oct. 4, 2014—at the Paseo de Marianas pedestrian mall in Garapan. A parade of cultures will be held on Oct. 4 at 5:30pm in Garapan from the Carolinian Affairs Office north along Beach Road to American Memorial Park, ending at Coral Tree Avenue. Booths will open at 5pm. Performances begin at 6pm and the event will run until 11pm. Admission is free. ***(MVA)***

Chamber membership meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's September general membership meeting will be held today, Sept. 3, at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. Luncheon begins at 11:30am, with the meeting starting at noon. The main guest speaker is Alan Fletcher, executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. His presentation will include the Integrated Resource Plan and the soon-to-be-in-place Incentive Rate for those who self-generate. Also speaking is Christopher Tenorio regarding the PSS Cooperative Education Program. Luncheon cost for SCC members is $20. Non-member cost is $30. ***(SCC)***

Donations to benefit Feds Feed Families campaign

SANTA RITA, Guam— Canned goods and money will be donated to local nonprofit organizations today, Sept. 3, as part of the Feds Feed Families campaign. The campaign is a voluntary effort that collects nonperishable food items and monetary donations for distribution to local food banks. U.S. Naval Base Guam Chapel Sailors will deliver the donations to Kamalen Karidat and Salvation Army on behalf of service members, federal employees, and their families. The Feds Feed Families campaign was launched in June on Naval Base Guam. It ended on Aug. 31.

Navy training on Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. Navy will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Sept. 5, from 7pm to 11:59pm. The U.S. military will conduct training on the island from 5am on Sept. 8 to 11:59pm on Oct. 6. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and date indicated. The general location of the training is on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. ***(PR)***

Japan Consulate offers class on Japanese culture

The Consular Office of Japan on Saipan will host a class about the Japanese culture on Friday, Sept. 19, 2014, from 3pm to 4:30pm, at the conference room of the Consular Office of Japan, second floor of the Bank of Hawaii Building, Mariana Heights Business Park, Puerto Rico, Saipan. The lecture will focus on the nature of Japanese culture, *haiku* (Japanese poetry), and Japan video topics. Any interested person is requested to register by Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2014, by contacting the Saipan Secretariat at cojsf@ag.mofa.go.jp. The class will be limited to 10 people and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. ***(PR)***

Family grief support meeting on Sept. 4

A group that is in the process of forming a Compassionate Friends chapter on Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday Sept. 4, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai. The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. For more information, call Donna Krum at 783-0755 or e-mail donnakrum@gmail.com or Jill Derickson, at jilld@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

Public invited to Tanapag Beach cleanup

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Cleanup Brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Tanapag Beach on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2014, starting at 8am.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify the island, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Tanapag Social Hall area/parking lot at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt.

The entire CNMI community is also invited to take part in this year's annual International Coastal Cleanup, which will be held on Sept. 26-27, 2014. For more information on how to participate in the ICC, contact Avra Heller at 664-8510.

The Marine Beach cleanup last month was successful with 15 BECQ volunteers participating. Thanks to our volunteers, about 500 lbs of trash was removed from the beach and properly disposed of.

The BECQ is looking forward to a repeat success this Saturday, so join BECQ's monthly cleanup brigade and "Pick It Up!" Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy.

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(BECQ)***

Geotesting, Inc. has openings for:

One (1) Soils/Materials Technician Supervisor
Qualifications: Associate's degree in Civil Engineering Technology (may be foreign and/or educational equivalent) and two years experience as a Soils/Materials Technician Supervisor or Soils/Material Engineer.
Duties: Reviews requirements of new projects and assists in preparation of proposals for clients based on the project requirements, scope of site and subsurface explorations and laboratory testing requirements. Logs subsurface soils and rocks in test borings for engineering purposes. Visits project sites and evaluate surface and probable subsurface soil and rock conditions, and other data. Supervises soils/materials technicians in performing laboratory and field testing on soils, concrete, aggregates, bituminous mixtures, and other related materials. Summarizes and prepares reports of the laboratory and field testing data.

Two (2) Assistant Soils/Materials Technician
Qualifications: Associate's degree in Engineering Technology (may be foreign and/or educational equivalent) or six (6) months experience as a Soils/Materials Technician or Assistant Soils/Materials Technician.
Duties: Assists in performing laboratory and field testing on soils, concrete, aggregates, bituminous mixtures, and other related materials. Tests will include, but are not limited to, grain size analysis, compaction, liquid limit and plasticity index, bearing ratio, specific gravity, sand equivalent, and concrete compressive and tensile strength testing. Assists in performing test borings and obtaining subsurface soil samples. Observes excavation and back filling. Assists in performing tests for design mix for concrete and bituminous mixes. Assists in performing infiltration tests in the soils. Assists in field samplings of soils, concrete and bituminous mixtures.

One (1) Assistant Materials Supervisor
Minimum qualifications: Associate's degree in Engineering Technology (may be foreign and/or educational equivalent) and two years experience in materials testing.
Duties: Performs and supervises laboratory and field testing of construction materials such as soils, aggregates, concrete and other related materials. Performs and supervises tests for design mix for concrete, bituminous mixtures and related materials. Reviews and prepares reports of laboratory and field test data of soils, aggregates, concrete, bituminous mixtures and related materials. Performs and supervises field samplings of soils, concrete, aggregates and related materials.

One (1) Core and Deep Well Drill Operator
Minimum qualifications: Two years experience as Core and Deep Well Drill Operator.
Duties: Operates machine to drill wells to 500 feet deep and take samples or cores for analysis of strata. Drives or guides truck-mounted equipment into position, levels and stabilizes rig, and extends telescoping derrick. Starts and controls drilling action and lowering of well casing into well bore. Withdraws drill rod from hole and extracts core sample. Couples additional lengths of drill road as bit advances and changes drill bit as needed. Records drilling progress and geological data and assists in performing laboratory and field testing. Maintains and diagnoses drill rigs for repairs.

One (1) Bookkeeper
Qualifications: Associate's degree in Accounting (may be foreign and/or educational equivalent), two years experience as bookkeeper or accountant, and working knowledge of QuickBooks software.
Duties: Records company's business transactions and retains all accounting records. Posts, verifies, and reconciles accounts payable, accounts receivable, expenses, payroll, and other ledger accounts. Prepares preliminary financial reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing account information. Prepares payroll and payroll taxes and distributions to government. Prepares gross receipts tax returns. Documents business transactions and verifies purchase orders and other financial transactions in order to substantiate the transactions prior to settlement. Prepares cash reconciliation, balances check books, and makes bank deposits. Performs other administrative duties, as required.

If interested, send resume to Geotesting, Inc. by email to geotesting@geoguam.com or by fax at 670-235-5000. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within one week of acceptance to hire.

Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

Operations Manager (1)
Job duties: The operations manager is responsible in planning and implementation of the overall business direction of the company. Responsible for creating production and marketing plans and making sure these plans are implemented and targets are achieved accordingly.

Job requirements: Minimum 5 years experience in managing shrimp aquaculture business. Must have the technical knowledge on shrimp farming as well as the skills necessary in business management. Must be a graduate of a 4-year degree course related to aquaculture or business management and have proven track record of managing businesses and people. The position also requires being on call 24 hours, 7 days a week. Basic knowledge of electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems also required.

Shrimp Hatchery Supervisor (1)
Job duties: Planning and production of at least 500,000 shrimp larvae every month. Work involves shrimp broodstock selection, maturation and conditioning, breeding and larval rearing. The supervisor is also in charge in the scheduling and delegation of work to aquaculture farmers.

Job requirements: At least 2 years experience in actual L. vannamei hatchery operations. A degree in aquaculture or related field an advantage. Willing to be on call 24 hours. Good in oral and written communication and should be literate in MS Word and Excel spreadsheets.

Electrician
Job duties: Pull out, installation, repair and maintenance of water pumps, motor aerators, and other support equipment for aquaculture. Repair and maintenance of electrical installations, building, and other structures. Repair and maintenance of heavy duty generators.

Job requirements: Minimum 4 years experience in electrical and mechanical works. Related engineering degree and previous experience in aquaculture operations is an advantage and preferred. Willing to be on call 24 hours a day. Able to lift up to 75lbs.

Accountant
Job duties: Prepare, examine or analyze accounting record, financial statements or other financial reports to asses accuracy, completeness and conformance to reporting and procedural standards. Report to management regarding the finances of establishments. Establish tables of accounts and design entries to proper accounts. Develop, implement, modify and document record keeping and accounting systems. Compute taxes owed and prepare tax returns ensuring compliance with payment, reporting and other tax requirements.

Job requirements: Accounting graduate or 4 years bachelor degree in accounting. Minimum 5 years experience in accounting. Well-versed in SAP accounting or any other accounting software. Must be skilled in use of MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint. Strong communication and interpersonal skills, team player and with positive attitude.

Aquaculture Farmer (2)
Job duties: Feeding and monitoring of live aquatic animals, cleaning of tanks, weighing of feeds, harvesting and packing, nighttime monitoring, grounds maintenance and other related jobs.

Job requirements: High school graduate, in good physical and health condition, able to lift up to 60lbs., knowledge of basic mathematical calculations. Must be willing to work night shifts, be a team player and with good working attitude.

Sales Representative
Job duties: Market development, delivery, collection and other customer relations duty. Formulations of sales and marketing strategies. Market survey and analysis and competitor benchmarking.

Job requirements: Minimum experience of 4 years in the seafood retail and wholesale business. Professional driving skills required. Proficient in MS Word and Excel. With proven track record in sales specifically in market development. With excellent oral and written communication skills. Able to lift up to 60lbs.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at the Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. Human Resources Office located in Linao Ln, China Town. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, September 12, 2014.

Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Fiji says Syrian rebels issue demands for captives

SUVA, Fiji (AP)—Fiji's military commander said Tuesday that Syrian rebels have issued three demands for the release of 45 Fijian peacekeepers they've held captive for five days.

Brig. Gen. Mosese Tikoitoga said the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front wants to be taken off the U.N. terrorist list, wants humanitarian aid delivered to parts of the Syrian capital Damascus, and wants compensation for three of its fighters it says were killed in a shootout with U.N. officers.

Tikoitoga didn't say if the demands would be seriously considered. He said the U.N. had sent hostage negotiators to Syria to take over discussions from military leaders.

"Negotiations have moved up to another level with the professional negotiators now in place," he said.

The Nusra Front abducted the Fijian soldiers Thursday morning and is holding them at an unknown location. The rebels on Thursday also surrounded two Filipino units serving in the U.N. mission that monitors the buffer zone between Israel and Syria, but the Filipino troops escaped over the weekend.

Tikoitoga on Tuesday also released the names of the 45 detained soldiers, who he said are led by Captain Savenaca Siwatibau Rabuka.

The commander asked Fiji's community and church leaders to help look after the families of the captive troops and asked the public to also offer support.

"I appeal to all Fijians that while we pray for our soldiers in Syria that we be sensitive to the families," he said, adding "the U.N. has assured us they will use all of their available resources for the safe return of our soldiers."

SIDS forum highlights partnership on sustainable energy

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Unloading of North-REP project cargoes (solar panels) in the outer islands of Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia.

Sustainable energy is one of the six multi-stakeholder Partnership Dialogues being held during this week's Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa. Central to the sustainable energy debate is use of renewable energy technologies to reduce SIDS reliance on fossil fuels, with their high cost and damaging environmental impacts.

"Lack of local capacity to design, implement, monitor and maintain renewable energy systems is one of the key challenges that SIDS face," said Nauru President Baron Waqa at the Renewable Energy Forum held ahead of the conference. The forum was organized by the government of New Zealand, the International Renewable Energy Agency, and Samoa.

Development of local capacity is one of the aims of the Northern Pacific ACP Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program (North-REP) being implemented in a partnership between the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the European Union, and the governments of Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Marshall Islands. SPC is managing bilateral funds totaling EUR 15.49 million for the three countries under the 10th European Development Fund.

North□REP focuses on improving in□country capacity to deliver and sustain renewable energy and energy efficiency programs; access to affordable, clean and reliable electricity supply in targeted islands; and efficient use of energy. As a result of the project, households, communities, schools and health centers have access to clean electricity from renewable energy. Technicians, engineers and communities have been trained and energy wastage has been reduced. Accredited training programs on renewable energy and energy efficiency have been established in local training institutes to support capacity building at the local level.

A steering committee with members from the three countries and EU provides guidance to SPC in managing project funds and delivering on country priorities.

The overarching theme of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States is "The sustainable development of Small Island Developing States through genuine and durable partnerships." North-REP provides a good example of a partnership in action. ***(SPC)***

VA town-hall meeting in Guam no later than Nov.

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Following a recent directive from Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald on Aug. 5, 2014: "All Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare and benefits facilities" are ordered to host town-hall meetings to "rebuild trust" lost from the recent VA scandal and to "listen and learn directly from those who use our system."

The VA Pacific Islands Health Care System, or VAPHICS, will be hosting a town-hall meeting no later than November 2014, according to Craig Oswald, facility strategic planner for the VAPHICS. Although a date has not been determined, the VAPIHCS has confirmed that this town-hall meeting will encompass all VA agencies such as VAPIHCS Guam CBOC, Veterans Benefits Administration, Guam Vet Center, and Guam Veterans Affairs Office.

A planning committee for the healthcare town-hall meeting is scheduled this month with Craig Oswald of VAPIHCS, John Unpingco of GVAO , Bill Cundiff of Veterans Commission, and other local veteran leaders on island.

"There are hundreds of veterans [in] Guam who have unanswered questions and concerns pertaining to the VA Healthcare System, and I am pleased that our local veterans will have the same opportunity given to all VA clinics to voice their needs at the upcoming town-hall meeting," said Sen. Frank B. Aguon Jr. "This town-hall meeting will be open to veterans' family members, veterans service organizations, non-governmental organizations and other community stakeholders. Participation is critical to begin fully addressing the needs of our veterans to the VA."

Additionally, some local veteran leaders in the community are spearheading a town-hall meeting as early as October 2014 and have garnered the support from federal, local, and non-governmental veterans' organizations. ***(PR)***

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 3, 2006

Northwest announces Guam and Saipan service changes

TOKYO—Northwest Airlines on Friday announced that it will offer a second daily flight between its Pacific hub at Tokyo's Narita Airport and Guam, beginning Oct. 28, 2006.

The flight will operate with Boeing 757 equipment, complementing existing daily Boeing 747 service. The new second flight allows for same day connections for Northwest customers traveling from its U.S. gateways of Detroit, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Minneapolis/St.Paul, Portland, San Francisco, and Seattle to Guam. The October schedule change will permit Guam customers to make convenient connections in Osaka to Northwest's Detroit nonstop flight, opening up dozens of destinations in the U.S. through the airline's WorldGateway at its Detroit hub. In addition to its double daily service from Tokyo, Northwest also offers daily roundtrip flights from Nagoya and Osaka, Japan to Guam. Additional service to Saipan The airline also announced it will operate an additional flight per week from Tokyo to Saipan bringing the total to eight flights per week from Oct. 29 to Dec. 3, 2006. The additional flight will operate from Tokyo to Saipan on Sundays and return to Tokyo on Mondays.

Worker who complained about leaking barracks, lack of food, ordered to depart

The Department of Labor has ordered to depart the CNMI an alien worker who only complained that her barracks was leaking and that their cafeteria does not serve breakfast when her employer did not renew her third year employment contract. Labor administrative hearing officer Barry Hirshbein denied complainant Qin Zhuang's request for transfer relief and ordered her to leave the Commonwealth within 21 days of receipt of her repatriation ticket. Hirshbein said he finds that the circumstances of the complaint strongly suggest that it was filed for the purpose of Zhuang gaining more time to look for a transfer employer. While he finds that there was a problem with rain leaks in the room occupied by complainant, he does not find that transfer relief is an appropriate remedy in this case, the hearing officer said. "These complaints could readily have been brought while complainant was still employed by respondent," he pointed out.

September 3, 2012

Prayer for Fitial, over 1,000 signatures at workers' vigil

Workers prayed for Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's good health and a change of heart so he could support granting improved immigration status to long-term legal foreign workers in the CNMI, at a Saturday night gathering that also saw more than 1,000 signatures so far gathered in support of a petition opposing extension of the CNMI-only transitional worker program period beyond Dec. 31, 2014. The petition letter also pushes for a grant of improved status to foreign workers who have lawfully worked in the CNMI for at least five years. Obet Abalos, of El Shaddai, said people should pray not only for their friends but also for others who do not necessarily share their views and opinions. "We ask the Lord to heal Fitial of his health problems and for him to change his position on long-term foreign workers," Abalos said, as he led workers from different countries and religious faiths in a prayer on Saturday night near the parking lot of TSL Plaza in Garapan as part of a 24-hour, one-month vigil to drum up support for the worker groups' quest for improved immigration status and opposition to transition extension.

Kim, McKenzie win in Docomo Golf Classic

Gi Yeong Kim defeated Jeff Taylor in the scorecard tiebreak to win the Championship Flight of Docomo Pacific's 3rd Annual Golf Classic held last Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links. Both golfers scored a net 63 and event officials, who utilized a Modified Calloway scoring system that resulted in a lot of close scores, had to track back five holes to declare Kim the winner of the tough Championship Flight. Kim grossed a 74 and ended up with a net total of 63 after factoring in his 2-handicap and 9-high/low deduction adjustment. Taylor finished the play with a raw 78 and also netted a 63 after considering his 4 handicap and 11 high-low, but came up just short of winning the top spot. J.J. Atalig, who had a 4 handicap and 8 high-low, carded a gross 79 and netted a 67 to earn third place and beat Chaeson Yi and Enoch S. Lim in another tiebreaker. Seven players made up the Championship Fight.

Island Snapshots

DENNIS B. CHAN

FIESTA TRAINEES

Ronna Arvel A. Awit, a recent Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan summer trainee, is presented with his certificate of completion during a special lunch Friday.

DENNIS B. CHAN

Noriel Laserna is awarded his certificate of completion by Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan executives, signifying his completion of the resort's summer training program.

DENNIS B. CHAN

Riggz Ranier, a student from Northern Marianas College, is presented with his certificate of completion for Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's summer trainee program.

DENNIS B. CHAN

Patricia Santiago, who trained under Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's hotel reservations department as part of the resort's summer training program, is presented with her certificate of completion.

DENNIS B. CHAN

John Taisacan is presented with his certificate of completion after finishing Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's summer training program. Taisacan trained under Fiesta's human resource department this summer.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

LABOR DAY

Department of Public Works employees help pull up one of their own after winning against the Department of Corrections in a tug-of-war game in Sunday's 2014 Labor Day festivities at the Civic Center in Susupe.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

TUG-OF-WAR

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) cheers on members of the Legislature team in a tug-of-war game in Sunday's 2014 Labor Day festivities at the Civic Center in Susupe. The Legislature beat the Saipan Mayor's Office in this round of the game.

DENNIS B. CHAN

A young girl checks out a fruit display at one of the Labor Day booths last Sunday at the Civic Center in Susupe.

Far left, Department of Corrections showed off their national and CNMI pride with their second place finish in the best decorated booth.

DENNIS B. CHAN

Left, a standing wreath greets people at the entrance of the Department of Public Safety's CNMI-proud tent, which won first place in best decorations.

DENNIS B. CHAN

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIV, Issue No. 175

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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EDITORIAL

Labor costs weighing down Postal Service

There is even more bad financial news for the U.S. Postal Service, according to a report released last week by the agency's Office of Inspector General. In addition to sharply declining mail volume and significant required payments for retiree health care, the USPS is struggling with high workers' compensation costs.

The OIG's report noted that, while the Postal Service since 2008 has cut its workforce by about 172,000 employees—a 19 percent reduction—its workers' compensation costs have increased 35 percent. The Postal Service's average workers' compensation cost per employee work hour in fiscal year 2013 was $1.16—nearly 60 percent higher than the private-sector rate, 73 cents.

The cost increases have been driven by an aging workforce, which is more prone to injury, a reduction in light-duty or limited-duty positions and cost-of-living increases. The report also remarked that, while the number of new workers' compensation claims has dropped over the past few years, the number of fraudulent cases has increased. It cited several examples of fraud cases.

The OIG estimated that the Postal Service could save $477 million per year by emulating practices utilized by private-sector businesses and state agencies, including capping the duration and amount of benefits, allowing the agency to settle or buy out cases, requiring injured employees to use a preferred network of physicians and use generic drugs, when available.

While the postal unions claim that the Postal Service's financial problems are chiefly due to a 2006 law that requires it to prepay its retiree health care obligations to the tune of about $5.5 billion a year (despite the fact that the USPS has defaulted on these payments repeatedly in recent years and is still losing billions of dollars), the OIG's latest report underscores that labor costs, along with the shift to digital communication, are driving the Postal Service's financial problems.

Based on the most recent annual financial reports, the Postal Service spends 78 percent of its total operating expenses on labor costs, such as wages and benefits (76 percent if you ignore the retiree health care payment). Compare that with the 59 percent rate at UPS, which is unionized, or the 39 percent rate of FedEx, which is nonunion.

Moreover, various studies have shown that Postal Service employees earn 20 percent to 30 percent more than their private-sector counterparts. This is on top of benefits that exceed not only those in the private sector, but even those for other federal workers.

To be sure, relieving the Postal Service of rules that tie its hands and drive up its costs would be a step in the right direction. An even better reform would be to relieve it of its monopoly over first-class mail and allow competition to determine the best ways of delivering the mail.

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HK SAR China's SARS

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

It was the epidemic of 2002-'03 that caught the world in what is now known as SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) that started in the southern part of China, got Hong Kong between a rock and a hard place, and from there, its cosmopolitan reach stretched across the planet.

The Ebola epidemic plagues Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone and jumped to Lagos in Nigeria, which like Hong Kong is also a cosmopolitan center with its extensive worldwide oil trade and commerce. Nigeria has been assuring the world that it is capable of handling the epidemic within its borders. Bravado or bravura, the world broils in the same heat together especially now that Senegal has joined the fever!

I had malaria in Nigeria in the early '80s and learned that expats had twice a year at the hospital in their contract as the parasite came calling every six months. In fact, non-human creatures (there are 8.7 million species on the planet) originated HIV/AIDS, SARS, Ebola, and other germs and viruses. Humans also developed anti-microbial resistance.

With the outbreak of the Ebola in the Congo (previously Zaire where it emerged in 1976), the global health community finally raised the alarm that every place on the planet be prepared to combat the epidemic. Fatalities are projected to reach 20K before the "perfect storm"—the public health emergency—is subdued.

China has its own tragedies, mostly landslides that devastate communal structures, recent disasters attributed to long-term mining, the frequent quakes that goes with the rain preceding the landslides bars access to many remote villages, particularly in the south and southwest.

But Mother Nature's convulsive behavior (a bridge under repair collapsed) is not the only cause of China's distress. If SARS bedeviled Hong Kong in the past, it is its status as a SAR, Special Administrative Region, that captures the evening news; the election of executive officers in the former British colony has got democrats roiled as Beijing weighed in on the nomination process.

Margaret Thatcher thought that Westminster had something to say about the city's future. Deng just went to receive the return of Hong Kong, thank you! Xianggang has always been a part of China, like Taiwan and Macau. Deng promulgated his political philosophy of "two systems, one country," which applies to Taiwan as well.

Those familiar with China's political divisions know that its ethnic minorities are granted autonomous status, not only to promote and protect cultural heritage but also to indigenize symbolic positions. Many in Hong Kong forgot that their political status is that of an administrative region, not an autonomous one.

China's promise to England was that Hong Kong's economic basis remains the same for the next 50 years. The Occupy Central movement that we encountered New Year in Victoria Island pushes for universal suffrage including the right to nominate anyone, with some vocally egging independence from China.

We shall not speculate on who is stoking the fire. HK never had universal suffrage. We used to say before the return of Victoria Peak to Beijing that political decisions were made with malt juice at the HK Jockey Club by *taipans* rather than British colonial officials. Nor does HK have a Hakka Lee Kwan Yew to chart an independent course, and Beijing in disinclined to move in that direction.

Inversely, Beijing supports the anti-Occupy forces that started a million signature campaign to oppose disruptive activity in the island's economic system and marched a 190,000-warm-body presence in a street demonstration for peace and democracy in August.

Familiar with powerful old Koumintang forces (9 of the top 10 richest men in the Philippines are of Chinese descent) and Taiwan, we can only speculate where Occupy Central in HK is getting its support. Shenzhen, Chongqing, Guangzhou, and Shanghai in reform-and-opening-up drive started by Deng Xiao Ping drove many in China to exit to other parts of the world, including SF, Vancouver, NYC, and HK. There is a strong undertow of despair, desperation and frustration within 85 percent of China's population, some in the 15 percent opening Caribbean bank accounts that Xi Jinping is now trying to unravel.

Whether HK SAR becomes China's political SARS remains to be seen. One of the illusions China needs not take too seriously is the western media's painting of it as the second largest economy in the world exhibiting the fastest economic growth. Maybe it is factually accurate, but a huge portion of the mainland population do not experience the wealth it supposedly has, and most of it is in paper tied to a boom in construction annually predicted to burst. To Beijing's credit, it has managed to manipulate the numbers. I know. I just became a reluctant home owner in a new development area.

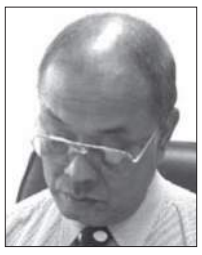
The vitality of trade and commerce is never far from the specter of a few filthy rich, and that is China's present SARS! Some in HK are whining and lots in Manila will oblige to stoke the fire.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Things that matter

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



Policy: Kilili says in lengthy and unreflecting way that the CNMI's human resources is key to economic growth. It's a collateral issue. The salient point you missed by oceans apart is policy, sir. Isn't the federal takeover of immigration the predatory policy that annihilated and paralyzed growth here? Isn't its removal the key to economic revival? Why the defeatist handout mindset as the holy grail of salvation? No steely resolve to do what's right?

Mind you, immigration control and economic plan go in tandem. Why haven't you sought return of immigration control? Does your inadequacy understanding the historical importance, uniqueness and essence of the Covenant Agreement a reason to ignore our humanity or indigenous dignity? Do we bow in servility to total federal influence? Does economic freedom mean anything to you? Don't you think we deserve it too?

Legacy: It's unspeakable the morphing of the CNMI into a welfare state left in complete ruination by the federal takeover of immigration. Fronting the procession is retiring congressman Georgie Pogee Miller and Alan Stayman, former OIA director. Kilili is in the back shepherding everybody to the NAP Office. A cartoon would do well on this score! Is fostering dependency the new way of life now? What legacy!

CUC's pipe: The agency is building a $6-million pipeline that would be useless in about two year's time when a hybrid integrated power system is emplaced. Isn't this an open waste and mismanagement of U.S. taxpayers' money? Isn't the feds $18 trillion in the hole? Why not an immediate federal receivership to sever this lunacy?

The Saipan power plant is in a tight bind and needs fresh funds for parts, poles, transmission lines and other must-have supplies during this and other typhoon seasons. Oooops! Let's start by having the CNMI pay its $23 million utility debt. Nothing runs on seawater as yet, yeah? And not according to the last time I checked the lagoon.

Strength of dollar: It matters to families the buying power of the dollar they earn daily. In Honolulu it's $.84 less or its strength is $.16 per dollar. In the NMI where everything is far more expensive, what's your estimate of the strength of your dollar? A recent report from the Asian Development Bank defines poverty income as $1.60 per person per day. What's ours? Let's ask candidates for answers as we head into the Nov. 4th election.

Religion: A religious belief is the deepest reach in conviction worth dying for, come hell or high water. This is the depth of radicals' belief, a bit too hard for a layman to grasp with some sense of clarity. But it's a 1,000 percent commitment and conviction.

Each Muslim extremist wants to meet Allah and would happily die to join him somewhere in the constellations of the universe. It's a well-financed group who speak with conviction. Obama's probably right quizzing how do we help those who don't want to help themselves? If it means so much to them then Iraqis and others must stand up in defense of their freedom.

At sunset in solitude

The sunset gracefully withdrew her rainbow of vivid colors from the far reaches of the vast expanse of the Pacific. There I was, a tiny grain of sand along Puntan Muchot relishing the sheer beauty of the most spectacularly picturesque part of the island.

The shallow water stirs teeny waves that land softly at the golden shoreline. It soft-lands, recedes until it subsides and disappears. The small rippling waves are insignificant thanks to Mother Nature. It was towering waves that ruffle everything along the shore. This evening was basically calm.

There were tourists on the other side frolicking in the water. They probably never paid any mind to the skinny silhouette walking cautiously in and out of the water. I appreciate the solitary moment if only to listen to tiny waves gently crashing on the beach or the howling trade winds struggling to free its spirit from ironwood trees.

At a distance, I could hear the roar of an approaching heavy rain. Large raindrops started pelting my face or pattering on the water around me. I could see the full moon rising spreading its wings across the lagoon turning the calm water smooth and silvery.

Across the Tanapag Harbor channel sits Mañagaha Island, the crown jewel of the NMI drawing 80 percent of visitors per planeload. It has the perfect triad of sun, sea and sand.

It must have been the last pit stop for traditional fishermen who'd clean large catch, dry them over fire or under the sun before heading home. I could see it being a beehive of activity among our master traditional fishermen.

So what's the importance of traditional fishermen? Their role in our cultural tradition of fishing for the entire community as far out as 500 miles. Collectively, they were mindful of the wellbeing of the community, braving the open sea to catch the big ones. Every family shares in the catch in what's known as communal sharing. It's a social fabric that has held us together for centuries.

About the only disruption I expect this evening is when my wife parks the old jeep to pick me up. As I relish the moment, the thought of disruption was sufficiently disruptive. Wish I could spend another hour but it's unwise to disturb the ways of our ancestors who also visit the shore for their own purposes. Trust me, I've seen it all!

The serene surrounding is so far removed from the redundancy of bankruptcy of the local government or a patient slowly succumbing to terminal cancer. This too was unwelcome disruption! I would have done well sitting alone taking every whip of salty gentle breeze from the sea. Try finding time alone for yourself. It's healthy!

The age of the independent worker

By SARAH HOROWITZ
Los Angeles Times

Sara Horowitz is the founder and executive director of Freelancers Union, a national labor group representing the new workforce. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

For much of the past century, the era of Big Work—the 40-hour workweek and its employer-provided benefits—were the foundation of our economy. That was then. Now, independent work is the new normal.

Freelancers, independent contractors and temp workers are on their way to making up the majority of the U.S. labor force. They number 42 million, or one-third of all workers in the nation. That figure is expected to rise to 40 percent—some 60 million people—by the end of the decade.

A number of factors both economic and cultural are causing the independent workforce to swell. Technological advances and globalization have greatly contributed to the erosion of traditional work arrangements. The private sector's need for speed and adaptability is increasingly incompatible with maintaining a large, full-time workforce. And of course, the Great Recession has put to rest the notion that there is such a thing as a stable full-time job.

It's true that many have been forced into this brave new world of freelance work by external factors. But many are getting into it by choice because independent work aligns with a paradigm shift in values that is happening both at work and in the marketplace.

Nearly 9 in 10 workers affiliated with Freelancers Union, a 250,000-member nonprofit, say they wouldn't return to traditional work if they had the choice. This sentiment is especially true for millennials, who will make up 75 percent of the workforce by 2025—and who work and consume differently than generations before them.

Success during the era of Big Work meant promotions, benefits packages and pensions. Americans went to work at 9 a.m. and left at 5 p.m.—OK, let's be honest, 6 or 7 p.m.—primarily for the material rewards that flowed from such employment: a new car, robust benefits, a three-bedroom house and two weeks of paid vacation. For the past century, in other words, remuneration defined success. For many workers, it still does.

However, among the growing ranks of independent workers, labor itself is increasingly its own reward, as is the opportunity to establish a work-life balance that was unthinkable during the era of Big Work. Millions of freelancers are working when they want and how they want. They're building gratifying careers but also happy lives. And they're helping build a support system so they can live the lives they want.

Yes, the comfort of a regular paycheck is gone, but it's replaced by other, arguably greater comforts: a flexible schedule, the sense of ownership and pride that comes with being one's own boss, the ability to prioritize health and wellness in ways that are incompatible with traditional employment structures.

As a result, the way Americans think about work is changing, and so is the way they spend money. Millennials in particular have reimagined the very idea of ownership and fueled the rise of conscious capitalism. Four out of five are more likely to put their purchasing power toward companies that support a cause they care about, according to a 2011 study by Participant Media.

Some argue that millennials don't buy big-ticket items because they can't afford them—for instance, the number of cars purchased by the 18-to-34 demographic fell almost 30 percent between 2007 and 2011. But that's only one factor in a much larger equation.

In reality, millennials tend to value experiences more than things. Their consumption habits are driven less by what kind of job they have and more by their pursuit of ever-evolving technology, brands that align with their ideals and sustainable and social purpose purchasing.

From what we buy to how we work—and why we do either—the American economy is undergoing a change every bit as epic as the shift a century ago from an agrarian society to an industrial one. When workers left the farm for the factory, there were, undoubtedly, plenty who mourned the loss of the old way of life, while others eagerly looked to the next era with vision and enthusiasm. The same is true today.

Despite the tremendous changes in our economic landscape, Washington is all but ignoring the broader economic implications, as evidenced by the failure of the Bureau of Labor Statistics to even track independent workers, much less adapt to their economic needs.

Freelancers, on the other hand, aren't just learning to adapt. Many are thriving in this new marketplace, creating powerful new platforms for working and living—co-ops, credit unions, community health and wellness centers—tailor-made for millennial technology and the 21st century economy.

The era of Big Work is indeed over, and good riddance. Welcome to the era of Meaningful Independence.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Raise your voice, dear women!

My daughter Carmelitta Gauio—a mother of five—got sentenced to 20 years without parole for allegedly beating her boyfriend with a hot frying pan. For this disproportional punishment, her children got scattered to other countries, her own life is destroyed for many years ahead.

From now, you CNMI woman may "earn" 20 years in prison if you defend yourselves by hitting attacking boyfriends with whatever is at hand. You are going to be sentenced more than 10 times harsher when compared to punishments for the same violations by men. As a letter writer's analyses has revealed, some judges are inclined to sentence women much harsher than men and do it systematically.

Another painful aspect is the lack of decent and safe conditions while serving the sentence. While serving the sentence, my daughter got another undeserved blow: She got sexually harassed in the correctional facility! Usually, you women are those who get harassed.

Dear women, raise your voice for her and for yourselves, please! A very dangerous precedent for women got created. Now, punishing woman that harshly is a legally admitted norm and applicable to all of you if something gets a little wrong. This norm is very likely to be used frequently in the CNMI. The local women's movements, their professional associations, and the people who want to stop the far-reaching negative consequences of the Carmelitta precedent should join their efforts and their influence to make our Marianas a land of law. Demand for comparatively just punishment and for decent conditions of serving a sentence! The Constitution's due process amendment is at your side

I bow my all-gray head and ask Attorney General's Office to look into Carmelitta's case one more time. Please enforce the main principle of precedent law: equal punishment for equal crime no matter where and no matter by whom!

I ask all of our ladies who have an opinion on this matter or are willing to voice their support for this cause to please send your support texts to bibamanamko@gmail.com.

My old heart aches…

Teddy Gauio
Navy Hill, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

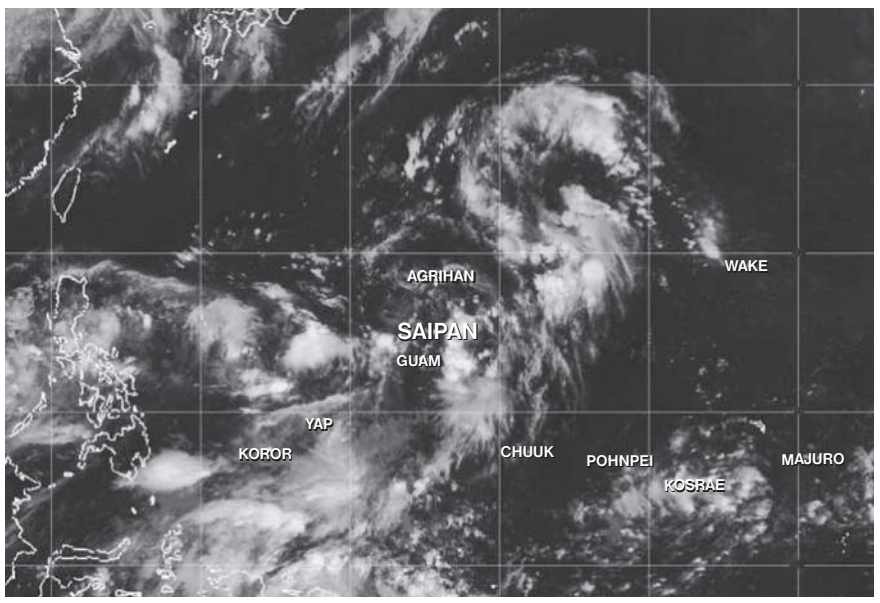
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼81
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼50
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼59
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼80
Honolulu	Sunny	▲87	▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼56
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲87	▼64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼73
Osaka	Rain	▲87	▼73
Paris	Sunny	▲77	▼59
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲78	▼71
Rome	Thundershowers	▲82	▼65
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼52
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼59
Seoul	Rain	▲69	▼64
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼68
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲96	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough runs eastward from a broad circulation northwest of Koror centered at about 13N130E to Saipan at 15N146E then it curves northeastward to end near 22N150E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of the Marianas are within 150 miles of a line from 16N130E to 14N143E and just east of Saipan and Guam between 9N and 16n from 146e to 151E and northeast of the Marianas around Minami Tori Shima or to the north of a line from 25N143E to 16N155E to 25N160E. Moist southwest monsoon winds across the Republic of Palau and Yap state are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between the equator and 9N from 130E to 145E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Kosrae state within 100 miles of a line from 4N158E to 5N167E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:26 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:59 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
4:04 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
9:07 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:25 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:03 PM	
Thursday	2:00 PM	12:46 AM
Friday	2:56 PM	1:45 AM
Saturday	3:52 PM	2:46 AM
Sunday	4:45 PM	3:48 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 28, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU7076	4:15am	6:50am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:45pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D2 8009	12:50pm	4:05pm	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 5, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU7075	9:00pm	3:15am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	7:25pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:55pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Business

Obama: 'Revving' economy calls for higher wages

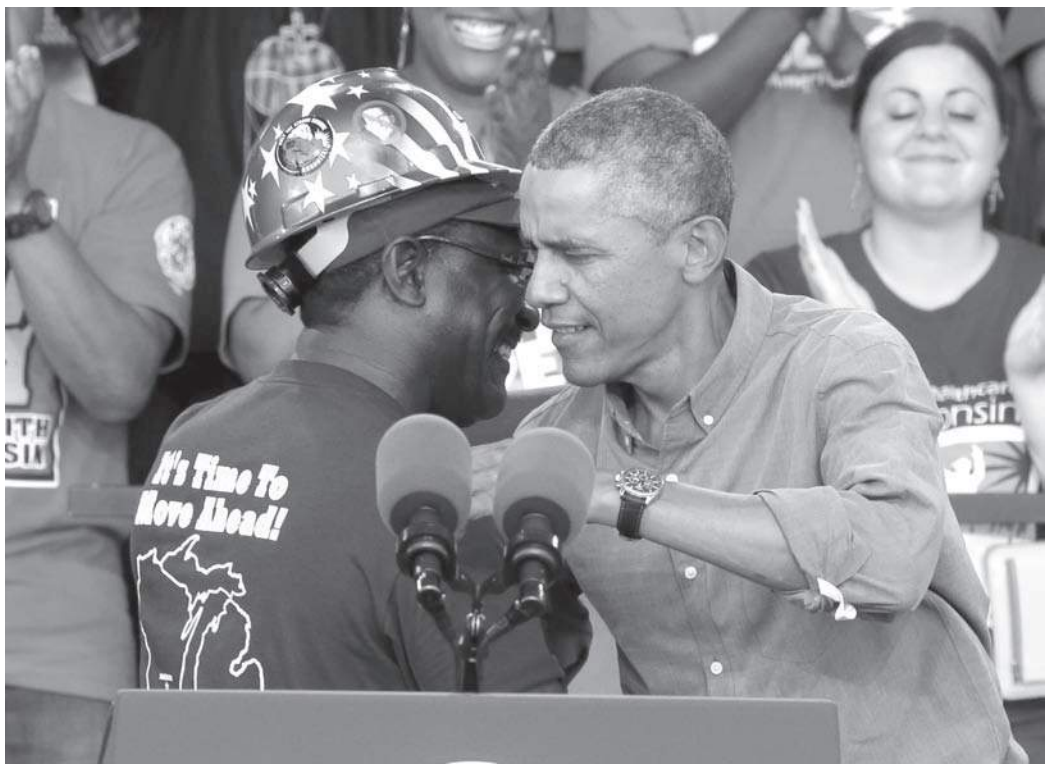
MILWAUKEE (AP)—President Barack Obama renewed his push for Congress to raise the minimum wage Monday in a buoyant accounting of the economy's "revving" performance, delivered on behalf of Democrats opening their fall campaigns for the midterm congressional elections.

"America deserves a raise," he told a union crowd in Milwaukee, vowing to keep a hard sell on Congress in much the way he once courted his wife. "I just wore her down," he cracked.

Timing his push to Labor Day, the traditional start of the autumn campaign, Obama aggressively drew attention to recent economic gains, setting aside past caution on that subject.

"By almost every measure the American economy and American workers are better off than when I took office," he said, rattling off a string of improving economic indicators even while acknowledging not all people are benefiting. "The engines," he said, "are revving a little louder."

It was, at least indirectly, a pep talk for Democrats facing tough races in a nation still gripped with economic anxieties.



AP
President Obama hugs Chris Harris, Vice President of United Steel Workers Local 2-209, after being introduced at Laborfest 2014 at Henry Maier Festival Park Monday, Sept. 1, 2014, in Milwaukee. Obama renewed his call for an increase in the minimum wage.

The emphasis on the minimum wage is designed to draw campaign contrasts with Republicans, many of whom maintain that an increase would hurt small businesses and slow down hiring. No one expects Congress to act on it before the November elections.

Despite the absence of a federal increase, 13 states raised their minimum wages at the beginning of this year. Those states have added jobs at a faster pace than those that did not raise the wage, providing a counterpoint to a Congressional Budget Office report earlier this year that projected that a higher minimum wage of $10.10 an hour could cost the nation 500,000 jobs.

Until now, Obama and his White House aides had been reluctant to draw too much attention to positive economic trends, worried that some may prove illusory or that, even if they hold, many working Americans continue to live on the edge of poverty and take no comfort in the upswing.

But in Milwaukee, Obama dared to say of the job picture, "We're on a streak."

White House aides still insist they are not declaring full victory over the lingering effects of a recession that ended five years ago.

But White House officials believe it is time to highlight recent improvements, in part to strengthen a difficult political environment for Democrats and to counter public perceptions that are eroding the president's public approval. Officials say Obama's most compelling case is to compare the economy now to what he inherited in 2009 in the aftermath of a near Wall Street meltdown.

Obama, whose public approval is at about 40 percent, has also been cautious about making appearances in states with close midterm political contests and where his popularity might be even lower.

But in coming to Wisconsin, he brought his Labor Day message to the state that was the epicenter of a fight over the collective bargaining rights of public employees. Labor Secretary Tom Perez and several national labor leaders came with him.

In Wisconsin, Republican Gov. Scott Walker, who pushed through a law that stripped most public sector union members of their ability to collectively bargain, is now in a tight re-election campaign and has been mentioned as a potential GOP presidential candidate in 2016. Polls find that Walker and Democrat Mary Burke are deadlocked with the election just over two months away.

US eating habits improve a bit—except among poor

CHICAGO (AP)—Americans' eating habits have improved—except among the poor, evidence of a widening wealth gap when it comes to diet. Yet even among wealthier adults, food choices remain far from ideal, a 12-year study found.

On an index of healthy eating where a perfect score is 110, U.S. adults averaged just 40 points in 1999-2000, climbing steadily to 47 points in 2009-10, the study found.

Scores for low-income adults were lower than the average and barely budged during the years studied. They averaged almost four points lower than those for high-income adults at the beginning; the difference increased to more than six points in 2009-10.

Higher scores mean greater intake of heart-healthy foods including vegetables, fruits, whole grains and healthy fats, and a high score means a low risk of obesity and chronic illnesses including heart disease, strokes and diabetes. Low scores mean people face greater chances for developing those ailments.

The widening rich-poor diet gap is disconcerting and "will have important public health implications," said study co-author Dr. Frank Hu of the Harvard School of Public Health. Diet-linked chronic diseases such as diabetes have become more common in Americans in general, and especially in the poor, he noted.

"Declining diet quality over time may actually widen the gap between the poor and the rich," Hu said.

Harvard School of Public Health researchers developed the healthy diet index used for the study. It is similar to federal dietary guidelines but features additional categories including red and processed meats, sugar-sweetened beverages and alcohol.

The study authors used that index along with government estimates on trans fat intake to evaluate information in 1999-2010 national health surveys that included interviews with people about their eating habits. The results are published Monday in JAMA Internal Medicine.

Hu said the widening diet gap reflects an income gap that deepened during the recent financial crisis, which likely made healthy food less affordable for many people. Hu also noted that inexpensive highly processed foods are often widely available in low-income neighborhoods.

Austerity debate flares as Europe recovery fades

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Europe's economic recovery is in danger. Governments are under pressure to save it, but struggling with political obstacles and disagreement among themselves over what to do.

Instead, the region is pinning its hopes—once again—on the European Central Bank, which is expected to launch new stimulus measures if the economy gets any worse.

Europe's lack of growth is looming larger and larger, however, and the ECB says it can't save the economy alone.

For more than five years since the eurozone hit turbulence over too much debt in 2009, governments' answer has been to raise taxes and restrain spending. And there's been some progress. Deficits have shrunk, and countries that needed bailout loans are slowly getting their act together.

But second quarter growth was zero, after only four quarters of measly expansion. While unemployment in the United States has fallen to 6.2 percent from 10 percent at its peak in Oct. 2009, Europe's is at 11.5 percent—still near last summer' 12 percent. The risk is that the eurozone remains stagnant for years—bad news not just for its people but also its three major trading partners: the U.S., Britain and China.

As worries spread, the debate over austerity versus growth is sharpening again. EU leaders will meet Oct. 6 to discuss growth, while the ECB will hold a policy meeting Thursday at which it is expected to flag its willingness to announce more stimulus such as bond purchases.

ECB President Mario Draghi is ringing the alarm.

He says the central bank can't do it all alone and that governments should dial back austerity, within EU rules aimed at restraining deficits. "It would be helpful for the overall stance of policy if fiscal policy could play a greater role alongside monetary policy, and I believe there is scope for this," Draghi said in a speech last week. Government spending can help boost growth by providing demand when the private sector is struggling.

Civil disobedience expected in fast-food pay, union fight

NEW YORK (AP)—McDonald's, Wendy's and other fast-food restaurants are expected to be targeted with acts of civil disobedience that could lead to arrests Thursday as labor organizers escalate their campaign to unionize the industry's workers.

Kendall Fells, an organizing director for Fast Food Forward, said workers in a couple of dozen cities were trained to peacefully engage in civil disobedience ahead of this week's planned protests.

Fells declined to say what exactly is in store for the protests in around 150 U.S. cities. But workers involved in the movement recently cited sit-ins as an example of strategies they could use to intensify their push for higher pay and unionization. Past protests have targeted a couple of restaurants in each city for a limited time, in many cases posing little disruption to operations.

A spokesman for the Service Employees International Union, which has been spearheading the protests, said home health care aides will join the actions in some locations.

The "Fight for $15" campaign has gained national attention at a time when growing income disparities have become a hot political issue. President Barack Obama renewed his push for Congress to raise the minimum wage at a Labor Day appearance in Milwaukee.

Many fast-food workers do not make much more than the federal minimum wage of $7.25 an hour. That equates to around $15,000 a year for 40 hours a week. But workers are often subject to unpredictable schedules and don't know how many hours they'll be given from week to week, since restaurants are careful to avoid paying overtime.

The fast-food campaign is designed to bring attention to such hardships, which few customers think about when buying burgers and fries, said Catherine Fisk, a professor of labor law at the University of California in Irvine. Over time, she said that could help "change the mindset" about fast-food jobs, which have historically been seen as difficult to unionize.

"The goal is to persuade workers that it doesn't have to be this way. The goal is to persuade consumers that it doesn't have to be this way," she said. "This is about getting attention to the issue."

Fisk noted that mining and manufacturing jobs were also once considered low-wage jobs with dim prospects. That changed in the 1930s, however, after legal protections for unionizing and actions by fed-up workers helped transform the jobs into more middle-class professions.

The National Restaurant Association said in a statement that the fast-food protests are attempts by unions "to boost their dwindling membership." The industry lobbying group said it hopes organizers will be respectful to customers and workers during the protests this week.

So far, the campaign and a similar effort on behalf of Wal-Mart workers have been effectively handled by BerlinRosen, a public relations firm known for its political work. Since the protests began in late 2012, organizers have kept the issue in the spotlight by switching up their tactics every few months.

Nation

No gray area: Beliefs shape views of Brown killing

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Lamont Jones and Keith Stephens stood 60 feet from each other, separated by four lanes of pavement and a thousand miles of perception.

Stephens was wearing a T-shirt printed with a police shield bearing the phrase "OFFICER DARREN WILSON I STAND BY YOU," as part of a rally supporting the white policeman who killed 18-year-old Michael Brown, who was unarmed. Jones was across the street, holding up a sign that said, in blood-red letters: "Darren Wilson is a Murderer."

There was no overlap in the facts as seen by Jones and Stephens at the demonstrations staged a few miles from suburban Ferguson, where Brown was killed. Like many who have closely followed the case, which sparked riots and yet another national racial conflagration, Jones and Stephens had made up their minds.

Like uncounted numbers of Americans, they saw no gray area in the killing of Michael Brown.

Many are convinced there was no justification for Wilson to kill Brown because he was unarmed. Many others are certain it was justifiable because they believe Brown threatened Wilson.

Not everyone is so sure. In a CBS News/New York Times poll, 64 percent of respondents said they didn't know enough to say whether the shooting was justified. Only about half of respondents said they had paid "a lot" of attention to the case.

But the national furor over Ferguson is fueled by those with strong opinions. They are the people still marching, or calling Brown a thug, or demanding that Wilson be convicted, or implying that Brown deserved his death.

Such strong opinions can often be influenced by "confirmation bias," psychologists say. A large body of research shows that people search for evidence to support their preexisting viewpoints—and then interpret that information in a way that reinforces their beliefs.

"It's the tendency to seek out and give greater weight to information that confirms what we think rather than contradicts it," said Scott Plous, a psychology professor at Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

Confirmation bias seemed to be running rampant at the dueling demonstrations.

About 100 Wilson backers, nearly all of them white, gathered outside of Barney's Sports Pub in St. Louis late last month, brandishing signs like "Heroes Have A Right To Protect Themselves." A multiracial group of about a dozen Brown supporters stood across the street. Passing drivers honked in support of one side or the other, screamed obscenities, or raised middle fingers out of windows.

AP

In this Aug. 23, 2014 photo, Lamont Jones holds up a sign reading "Darren Wilson is a Murderer," in St. Louis. Jones was reacting to a rally supporting Wilson, the white officer who shot unarmed, black 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. Like many Americans, Jones has formed concrete opinions about the case.

Will traffic deaths rise as states legalize pot?

WASHINGTON (AP)—As states liberalize their marijuana laws, public officials and safety advocates worry that more drivers high on pot will lead to a big increase in traffic deaths. Researchers, though, are divided on the question.

Studies of marijuana's effects show that the drug can slow decision-making, decrease peripheral vision and impede multitasking, all of which are critical driving skills. But unlike with alcohol, drivers high on pot tend to be aware that they are impaired and try to compensate by driving slowly, avoiding risky actions such as passing other cars, and allowing extra room between vehicles.

On the other hand, combining marijuana with alcohol appears to eliminate the pot smoker's exaggerated caution and seems to increase driving impairment beyond the effects of either substance alone.

"We see the legalization of marijuana in Colorado and Washington as a wake-up call for all of us in highway safety," said Jonathan Adkins, executive director of Governors Highway Safety Association, which represents state highway safety offices.

"We don't know enough about the scope of marijuana-impaired driving to call it a big or small problem. But anytime a driver has their ability impaired, it is a problem."

Colorado and Washington are the only states that allow retail sales of marijuana for recreational use. Efforts to legalize recreational marijuana are underway in Alaska, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon and the District of Columbia. Twenty-three states and the nation's capital permit marijuana use for medical purposes.

It is illegal in all states to drive while impaired by marijuana.

Colorado, Washington and Montana have set an intoxication threshold of 5 parts per billion of THC, the psychoactive ingredient in pot, in the blood. A few other states have set intoxication thresholds, but most have not set a specific level. In Washington, there was a jump of nearly 25 percent in drivers testing positive for marijuana in 2013—the first full year after legalization—but no corresponding increase in car accidents or fatalities.

What worries highway safety experts are cases like that of New York teenager Joseph Beer, who in October 2012 smoked marijuana, climbed into a Subaru Impreza with four friends and drove more than 100 mph before losing control. The car crashed into trees with such force that the vehicle split in half, killing his friends.

Beer pleaded guilty to aggravated vehicular homicide and was sentenced last week to 5 years to 15 years in prison.

Surly 2014 electorate poised to 'keep the bums in'

WASHINGTON (AP)—A surly electorate that holds Congress in even lower regard than unpopular President Barack Obama is willing to "keep the bums in," with at least 365 incumbents in the 435-member House and 18 of 28 senators on a glide path to another term when ballots are counted Nov. 4.

With less than 10 weeks to the elections, Republicans and Democrats who assess this fall's midterm contests say the power of incumbency—the decennial process of reconfiguring congressional maps and hefty fundraising—trumps the sour public mood and antipathy toward gridlocked Washington.

"Despite the incredibly low polling, favorable ratings for Congress, it's still an incumbent's world," said Sheila Krumholz, executive director of the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics that tracks political money.

That leaves many voters angry, not only with the political reality but their inability to change it.

"I can't get over where they say people are going to be able to keep their seats when they're not doing their jobs. I just don't understand it," said retired teacher Pauline Legendre after voting in Minnesota's Democratic primary last month.

The voter disgust is palpable, evident in blistering comments at summertime town halls and middling percentages for incumbents in primaries. Yet no sitting senator has lost and only three congressmen got the primary boot. Come Election Day, only a fraction of the electorate will be motivated enough to vote—if history is any guide.

Congressional hopefuls are whipsawed by the two dynamics.

"It's going to be a challenge for any candidate running for Congress to suggest that they have all the answers or that somehow there's something about them that's so inspiring" that voters are going to forget "how disenchanted or disaffected they are with government at the federal level," said Ryan Costello, a Republican seeking an open House seat in southeast Pennsylvania where just 12 percent of GOP voters turned out in the May primary.

ACROSS THE NATION

Louisiana following judge's order on abortion law

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—The Louisiana health department will follow a federal judge's order and refrain from immediately penalizing doctors who are trying to comply with a new abortion law that requires them to obtain admitting privileges at a local hospital, a spokeswoman said Monday. U.S. District Judge John deGravelles issued a temporary restraining order late Sunday that blocked enforcement of the new law that took effect Monday. The law requires physicians at all five abortion clinics in Louisiana to obtain privileges to admit patients to a hospital within 30 miles of the clinic where the doctor works. State Department of Health and Hospitals spokeswoman Olivia Watkins told The Associated Press on Monday that the agency won't take action against any provider who shows he or she has applied for such privileges.

Coroner: Mom, 3 kids among 5 killed in plane crash

ERIE, Colo. (AP)—Four of the five people killed in a small-plane crash north of Denver were identified Monday as a woman and her three children. The Weld County coroner says Tori Rains-Wedan, 41, and her three sons, 15-year-old Mason Wedan and 11-year-old twins Austin and Hunter, died in the crash Sunday, the Boulder Daily Camera reported. Officials haven't named the pilot of the Piper PA-46 who also died when the plane crashed about 11:50 a.m. in a grassy field near the Erie Municipal Airport, about 20 miles north of Denver.

California fires burn cabin, threaten homes

HAPPY CAMP, Calif. (AP)—A Northern California wildfire has been contained after destroying a forest cabin, damaging five other homes and forcing about 50 people to evacuate. Meanwhile, a second blaze threatens hundreds of homes. Authorities say the blaze erupted shortly before 3:30 p.m. Monday along the Russian River near Forestville in Sonoma County. Three people were treated for burns or smoke inhalation. The San Francisco Chronicle says residents of Summerhome Park were evacuated for several hours until the fire was contained. It burned about 1 acre.

Asia

Pakistan's premier challenged by raging protests

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Ahead of a joint session of parliament, Pakistan's prime minister and army chief held marathon meetings Monday over violent anti-government protests that could force the premier of this nuclear-armed country to resign.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif again vowed he would not step down under duress, even as protesters briefly took over the country's state-run television broadcaster and battled security forces in the streets. But the pressure from three days of violent protests on Sharif has intensified amid reports—later denied by the military—that the country's powerful army chief advised him to resign.

The parliamentary session Tuesday appears to be an attempt to rally political support to the prime minister's side. While many politicians have backed him so far, many in the country increasingly have grown worried about the protests and the direction of the nascent democracy in the country of 180 million people.

The turmoil comes as part of the mass demonstrations led by cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri and opposition politician Imran Khan, who both demand Sharif step down over their allegations of fraud in last year's election. Their protests, which have been peaceful for weeks, turned ugly this weekend when clashes between protesters and security forces killed three people and wounded some 400 in running street battles in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad.

Monday began with more violence.

Demonstrators briefly took over Pakistan's state television station, forcing the channel off the air. Senior official Athar Farooq said 20 cameras went missing as protesters overran the station, armed with sticks and screaming. The intruders also destroyed equipment and fought with employees.

Several protesters also took down a portrait of Sharif from a wall, threw it on the floor and stomped on it in anger.

Soldiers and paramilitary Rangers later reached the building and began to clear it of protesters. Some private television stations showed footage of protesters embracing the Rangers and agreeing to leave.

The rallies against Sharif constitute the biggest threat to his government. Several rounds of negotiations between representatives of Khan and Qadri and the government have failed to resolve the crisis.

The two opposition leaders allege widespread fraud in the country's May 2013 election, in which Sharif's party won by a landslide. International observers found no evidence indicating rampant election tampering.

Rumors swirled around the capital Monday after several television stations reported that the military forced Sharif to leave office, something the army later called "totally baseless."

AP
Pakistani protesters receive food, distributed outside parliament in Islamabad, Pakistan, Monday, Sept. 1, 2014.

But questions about whether the military has played a role in fomenting the crisis intensified after a news conference by Javed Hashmi, who until Sunday was a top ally of Khan and the president of his political party, Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf.

Hashmi said he disagreed with the party's decision to march late Saturday toward the prime minister's house and parliament, which sparked the clashes with police. He also has warned Pakistan is moving dangerously close toward martial law being implemented. On Monday, he described Khan's protest movements as being scripted.

He also said he opposed joining Qadri's protest. But touching his shoulder, in reference to the epaulettes military officers wear, Hashmi said Khan told him: "They want us to go with Tahir-ul-Qadri."

Khan has denied any outside influence on his protest. The military also categorically rejected the idea that they backed the protesters and said their support for democracy was "unequivocal."

However, Pakistan's military wields a powerful influence in the country. It has taken power in three coups since the country was carved out of India in 1947, including one that forced Sharif out of the prime minister's office in 1999 and into exile.

British migrant rights activist faces Thai trial

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—A British human rights activist who investigated alleged abuses at a Thai fruit processing factory went on trial Tuesday in the first of a series of criminal lawsuits filed against him by the company.

Natural Fruit Co. Ltd. is accusing activist Andy Hall of defamation in the wake of a report he helped author last year for the Finland-based watchdog group Finnwatch that detailed poor labor conditions in seafood and pineapple export companies in Thailand.

The report investigated a factory owned by Natural Fruit that employs hundreds of migrants from neighboring Myanmar, and found the company illegally confiscated passports, paid below minimum wage and overworked staff in sweltering conditions so hot that heat strokes were common. Natural Fruit disputes the accusations.

Phil Robertson, deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Asia division, criticized the trial, saying it would have a "chilling effect" on independent researchers probing the industry.

Natural Fruit, "has decided to take a punitive approach rather than address the problems in their factory," he said. "This is all about trying to intimidate people who are prepared to investigate human rights abuses."

Hall, 34, faces up to seven years in prison and a fine of up to US$10 million.

There are four criminal and civil cases pending against Hall, whose passport was confiscated by Thai authorities as a condition of bail set in June. The first, which began Tuesday, relates to defamation charges for an interview on the subject he gave to Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television.

Americans detained in North Korea call for US help

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea gave foreign media access on Monday to three detained Americans who said they have been able to contact their families and—watched by officials as they spoke—called for Washington to send a high-ranking representative to negotiate for their freedom.

Jeffrey Fowle and Mathew Miller said they expect to face trial within a month. But they said they do not know what punishment they could face or what the specific charges against them are. Kenneth Bae, who already is serving a 15-year term, said his health has deteriorated at the labor camp where he works eight hours a day.

The three were allowed to speak briefly with The Associated Press at a meeting center in Pyongyang. North Korean officials were present during the interviews, conducted separately and in different rooms, but did not censor the questions that were asked. The three said they did not know they were going to be interviewed until immediately beforehand.

All said they believe the only solution to their situation is for a U.S. representative to come to North Korea to make a direct appeal.

That has often been North Korea's bargaining chip in the past, when senior statesmen including former President Bill Clinton made trips to Pyongyang to secure the release of detainees.

North Korea says Fowle and Miller committed hostile acts which violated their status as tourists. It has announced that authorities are preparing for the trial, but has not announced the date.

In Washington, National Security Council spokesman Patrick Ventrell said, "We have seen the reports of interviews with the three American citizens detained in North Korea."

"Securing the release of U.S. citizens is a top priority and we have followed these cases closely in the White House," his statement added. "We continue to do all we can to secure their earliest possible release."

Ventrell noted that the State Department has issued a travel warning recommending against all travel to North Korea for U.S. citizens.

Fowle arrived in North Korea on April 29. He is suspected of leaving a Bible in a nightclub in the northern port city of Chongjin. Christian proselytizing is considered a crime in North Korea. Fowle, 56, lives in Miamisburg, Ohio, where he works in a city streets department. He has a wife and three children aged 9, 10, and 12.

"Within a month I could be sharing a jail cell with Ken Bae," he said, adding that he hasn't spoken with his family for three weeks. "I'm desperate to get back to them."

North Korea says Miller, 24, entered the country on April 10 with a tourist visa, but tore it up at the airport and shouted that he wanted to seek asylum. Miller refused to comment on whether he was seeking asylum.

Bae, a 46-year-old Korean-American missionary, has been held since November 2012. He was moved from a work camp to a hospital because of failing health and weight loss but last month was sent back to the work camp outside of Pyongyang, where he said he does farm-related labor. He said he has lost

ASIAN BRIEFS

Anti-China group nabbed for attempted firebombing

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine authorities have arrested three men linked to a group that allegedly planned to set off firebombs at the Manila airport and a mall to protest the government's alleged "soft" stance in its territorial dispute with China. Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said Tuesday that the alleged leader of the group and two other men were arrested Monday with four home-made incendiary devices found inside their car at the airport car park. Government agents, who were tipped off by an informant, say the men planned to set off one bomb at a car park toilet and the three others inside one of the country's biggest malls.

New Zealand gunman kills 2; suspect faces charges

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A man suspected of killing two unemployment-office workers and seriously wounding a third in a South Island town was charged Tuesday with murder. John Tully was arrested Monday evening following a seven-hour manhunt that kept a town on edge. Tully made his first court appearance Tuesday on two charges of murder and one of attempted murder. He did not enter a plea and remained in custody. Police spokeswoman Lisa-Marie Brooks said a police dog unit apprehended Tully, 48, near a lake shortly after 5 p.m. following an extensive manhunt in the South Island town of Ashburton.

3 Chinese inmates kill guard, break out of jail

BEIJING (AP)—Three inmates, including one sentenced to death, escaped in a rare jailbreak in China's northeast after killing a guard early Tuesday morning, state media reported. The escape at from Yanshou county jail outside the city of Harbin took place about 6 a.m. Tuesday (2200 GMT Monday), according to a report on the website of the Communist Party's People's Daily newspaper. Armed police are searching for the fugitives, it said. One of the men, 50-year-old Gao Yulun, had been sentenced to death, the report said. The other two, 35-year-old Wang Damin and 29-year-old Li Haiwei, were charged, respectively, with assault leading to death and murder, although it wasn't clear whether they had gone on trial yet.

World

Syrian rebels, government clash in Golan Heights

AP

U.N. soldiers observe Syria's Quneitra province at an observation point near the border with Syria, Monday, Sept. 1, 2014.

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian rebels clashed with government troops on Monday in the Golan Heights, where al-Qaida-linked insurgents abducted U.N. peacekeepers last week, activists said.

The fighting was focused around the town of Hamidiyeh in Quneitra province near the disputed frontier with Israel, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The Observatory said there were casualties on both sides but did not have exact figures.

Syria's state news agency said the military killed "many terrorists" and destroyed a heavy machine gun in the fighting. The government refers to those trying to oust President Bashar Assad as terrorists.

■■■

Source: BBC
Graphic: Staff

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BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's outgoing prime minster pledged Monday to turn his country into "a big grave" for Sunni militants from the Islamic State group and commended security forces who achieved a rare victory over insurgents by ending the siege of a Shiite town.

Nouri al-Maliki made the comments during an unannounced visit to the northern community of Amirli, where he was greeted with hugs. A day earlier, Iraqi forces backed by Iran-allied Shiite militias and U.S. airstrikes broke a two-month siege of the town where some 15,000 Shiite Turkmens had been stranded.

In footage aired on state TV, al-Maliki was shown sitting at a wooden desk in front of a large poster of Shiite leader Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistsani, ordering promotions and awards for those who fought in the battle.

■■■

Heavy clashes have raged in the area since Syrian rebels captured a border crossing near the abandoned town of Quneitra on Wednesday. One day later, fighters from al-Qaida's Syria branch, the Nusra Front, abducted 45 Fijian peacekeepers and surrounded two Filipino contingents serving in the U.N. mission that monitors the buffer zone between Israel and Syria.

The Filipino troops escaped over the weekend, while the Fijians are still being held by the Nusra Front. The United Nations says that it is seeking the Fijians' immediate and unconditional release. It says it has not established where the peacekeepers are being held.

Fiji's military commander said Tuesday that the Nusra Front has issued three demands for the release of the Fijian peacekeepers.

Brig. Gen. Mosese Tikoitoga said the Nusra Front wants to be taken off the U.N. terrorist list, wants humanitarian aid delivered to parts of the Syrian capital Damascus, and wants compensation for three of its fighters it says were killed in a shootout with U.N. officers.

Tikoitoga didn't say if the demands would be seriously considered. He said the U.N. had sent hostage negotiators to Syria to take over discussions from military leaders.

"Negotiations have moved up to another level with the professional negotiators now in place," he said.

The commander asked Fiji's community and church leaders to help look after the families of the captive troops and asked the public to also offer support.

"I appeal to all Fijians that while we pray for our soldiers in Syria that we be sensitive to the families," he said, adding "the U.N. has assured us they will use all of their available resources for the safe return of our soldiers."

Pro-Russian rebels lower demands in peace talks

MOSCOW (AP)—Pro-Russian rebels softened their demand for full independence Monday, saying they would respect Ukraine's sovereignty in exchange for autonomy—a shift that reflects Moscow's desire to strike a deal at a new round of peace talks.

The insurgents' platform, released at the start of Monday's negotiations in Minsk, the Belarusian capital, represented a significant change in their vision for the future of Ukraine's eastern, mainly Russian-speaking region.

It remains unclear, however, whether the talks can reach a compromise amid the brutal fighting that has continued in eastern Ukraine. On Monday, the rebels pushed Ukrainian government forces from an airport near Luhansk, the second-largest rebel-held city, the latest in a series of military gains.

The peace talks in Minsk follow last week's meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart, Petro Poroshenko. The negotiations involve former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma; Russia's ambassador to Ukraine; an envoy from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and representatives of the rebels.

Yet similar talks earlier this summer produced no visible results.

Unlike the previous rounds, this time rebels said in a statement carried by Russia's state-run RIA Novosti news agency that they are willing to discuss "the preservation of the united economic, cultural and political space of Ukraine." In return, they demanded a comprehensive amnesty and broad local powers that would include being able to appoint their own local law enforcement officials.

This deal is only for eastern Ukraine. There are no negotiations on handing back Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula that Russia annexed in March, a move that cost Ukraine several major ports, half its coastline and untold billions in Black Sea oil and mineral rights.

The talks lasted for several hours Monday and were adjourned until Friday, when the parties are to discuss a cease-fire and an exchange of prisoners, rebel negotiator Andrei Purgin said, according to RIA Novosti.

The rebels' more moderate negotiating platform appeared to reflect Putin's desire to make a deal that would allow Russia to avoid more punitive Western sanctions while preserving a significant degree of leverage over its neighbor.

UK: Passports could be seized to fight terrorism

LONDON (AP)—Prime Minister David Cameron on Monday proposed new laws that would give police the power to seize the passports of Britons suspected of having traveled abroad to fight with terrorist groups.

Speaking to Parliament, Cameron said his government is also working on plans to block such suspected British jihadi fighters from re-entering the U.K. The power to monitor such suspects who are already in Britain would also be strengthened.

The plans to widen Britain's anti-terror laws, which are likely to be approved by parliament, are aimed at preventing attacks by Islamist militants returning from terror training in trouble spots in the Middle East.

Like other Western countries such as the U.S., France and Germany, Britain is worried that citizens who travel abroad to join terror groups could threaten their home country when they return.

Intelligence and security services suspect that around 500 Britons have gone to fight in Syria and potentially Iraq. Cameron has described the extremism posed by the Islamic State group as the biggest security threat of modern times—surpassing that of al-Qaida—and said it poses a direct threat to Europe.

Britain's Home Secretary already has the authority to withhold passports in some cases, but Cameron said more is needed to ensure police at border crossings could act in time when they spot a suspect.

"We will introduce specific and targeted legislation to fill this gap by providing the police with a temporary power to seize a passport at the border, during which time they will be able to investigate the individual concerned," he said.

Authorities on Friday raised Britain's terror threat alert from "substantial" to "severe," the second-highest level, in response to the crises in Iraq and Syria and concerns that terrorist groups could target Europe. The alert means that an attack on Britain is "highly likely"—though the government did not provide information to suggest an attack was imminent.

WORLD BRIEFS

Regional body to help restore stability in Lesotho

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Southern Africa's regional body said Monday it will send an envoy and an observer team to Lesotho to help restore stability and security in the mountainous kingdom where military actions over the weekend caused the prime minister to flee. The Southern African Development Community announced the measures after an emergency meeting with Lesotho's prime minister, Thomas Thabane, deputy prime minister, Mothetjoa Metsing, and others in Pretoria. Political tensions have been high between Thabane, Metsing and others within the country's first coalition government since June when the prime minister suspended parliament to dodge a vote of no confidence.

Parents of ill UK boy fight extradition from Spain

LONDON (AP)—The parents say they want to give their 5 year-old-boy with a brain tumor the best chance to live with a revolutionary new treatment they learned about on the Internet. Their British hospital says the boy has a 70 percent to 80 percent chance of survival with the treatment it offers, and it's the parents who are putting the child at risk. Britain has become riveted by the case of little Ashya King, whose parents plucked him from a hospital in southern England and fled to Spain amid a dispute over treatment—with British justice close on the family's heels. Brett and Naghemeh King signaled Monday they would fight extradition, defying doctors and the legal system as a British court considers a ruling on forcing the family to come home.

Focus

China anti-dissent playbook may fail in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP)—China's Communist leaders have pulled out their usual playbook to suppress resistance to their plans to tightly limit the first direct election of Hong Kong's leader, but are likely to find that the results are quite different.

Beijing is blaming radicals and foreigners and showing off its military might, all things unlikely to go down well in the freewheeling capitalist bastion where a sizeable middle class accustomed to freedom of speech and the rule of law plans to push back with acts of civil disobedience.

Rowdy protests on Monday against a visiting Beijing official who was explaining the central government's decision signaled a new stage in Hong Kong's battle for democracy.

The ruling came after months of reminders from Beijing that it is ultimately in charge of the city despite its substantial autonomy. But the reaction in the former British colony is shaping up to be unlike anything Beijing is used to encountering when quelling dissent on the mainland.

Dozens of pro-democracy lawmakers heckled Li Fei, the deputy secretary general of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, or legislature, as he explained the election process, a rare occasion on which a Beijing official was exposed to open defiance.

They chanted slogans and waved signs accusing China's central government of "breaking its promise" to let Hong Kong have full democracy. Security officers escorted some out and carried or dragged away others. Outside the venue, a group of activists trying to storm barricades to get inside were pepper-sprayed by police.

Democracy groups reacted with anger after Li's announcement on Sunday ruling out open nominations for candidates in Hong Kong's first direct elections in 2017. Students vowed to boycott classes, and leaders of the Occupy Central movement said the city had entered an "era of civil disobedience," adding they would go ahead with plans to paralyze the financial district with 10,000 protesters to press for genuine democracy.

Li dismissed the threats, saying "the Chinese central government believes that the Hong Kong government, especially the high-quality police force and law enforcement agencies, with the support of Hong Kong citizens, will be able to handle it."

Beijing's hard line reflects President Xi Jinping's ongoing crackdown on mainland dissent to remove all challenges to the Communist Party, as well as Hong Kong's waning importance to China as economic reforms boost other mainland financial hubs such as Shanghai.

China has sought to blame the opposition in Hong Kong on interference by Britain and other unidentified foreign forces, an echo of Beijing's frequent attacks on "overseas anti-China forces" it blames for encouraging dissidents and fueling instability among its ethnic minorities.

It also accused Hong Kong's opposition of having become radicalized and refusing to compromise.

"No matter what the opposition does, the central government won't budge from its stance, because it cannot allow the reins of power in Hong Kong to shift to the opposition," an editorial in the China Daily said Monday.

While some pro-democracy lawmakers are considered radical, Hong Kong democracy supporters come from a broad cross section of society, including students, religious leaders and financial workers. Occupy Central's leaders include two university professors and a clergyman.

Hong Kong activists operate openly in a way unthinkable on the mainland. Beijing exercises a broad range of punitive measures against dissidents, ranging from lengthy jail sentences to constant harassment and extra-judicial house arrest.

Political gatherings are routinely broken up, even in private homes, and protests allowed only when they align with Beijing's agenda, such as criticizing Japan or the United States. China also polices the Internet for political discussions, blocks Facebook and Twitter, and demands that their Chinese equivalents report and remove any sensitive content.

Through such methods, Beijing keeps its critics fearful, impoverished and disorganized. Dissidents on the mainland are frequently charged with subversion, but also face what many consider trumped-up charges of disrupting social order, tax evasion or even organizing a crowd to block traffic.

Such restrictions are largely absent in Hong Kong. Activists are free to organize large anti-government protest rallies attracting tens of thousands of demonstrators, thanks to guarantees in the city's mini-constitution ensuring freedom of speech.

Hong Kongers also don't face politically motivated punishment from the city's independent courts. More than 500 protesters arrested in July for staging an unauthorized sit-in following a big pro-democracy rally were charged with unlawful assembly and obstructing police, but most were later released.

A report last week that Chinese armored personnel carriers were seen on Hong Kong's streets raised concerns that Beijing was sending a signal to the city ahead of Sunday's voting reform announcement. While the People's Liberation Army has bases in the city, it typically keeps a low profile, so the photographs of at least four of the military vehicles in the Apple Daily newspaper made democracy activists wonder about the timing.

A hard line on democracy in Hong Kong will also do nothing to advance China's courtship of Taiwan, the self-governing island democracy that Beijing is determined to bring under its control.

The "one country, two systems" formula under which Hong Kong is governed was conceived originally by former leader Deng Xiaoping as a way to coax Taiwan into unifying with the mainland. The idea never had much attraction for the island's population, and as with their Hong Kong counterparts, young Taiwanese are growing increasingly alienated from Beijing. The island's population overwhelmingly favors maintaining their de-facto independence from China, and Beijing's stance on Hong Kong would mark a substantial setback from Taiwan's current democratic freedoms.

"Democracy and popular voting are universal values," the Taiwanese agency responsible for mainland China policy said in a statement Monday. "We understand the Hong Kong people's expectation for the implementation of real universal suffrage."

AP

Pro-democracy lawmakers display placards against Li Fei, deputy secretary general of the National People's Congress' Standing Committee, during a briefing session in Hong Kong Monday, Sept. 1, 2014. Hong Kong pro-democracy legislators have disrupted the Beijing official's speech as he sought to explain a decision to tightly limit voting reforms for the southern Chinese financial hub. The placards read "Break a promise" and "Shameful."

Campus Life

Buyer's remorse on Common Core for policymakers?

By KIMBERLY HEFLING and JULIE CARR SMYTH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Millions of students will sit down at computers this year to take new tests rooted in the Common Core standards for math and reading, but policymakers in many states are having buyer's remorse.

The fight to repeal the standards has heated up in Ohio, with state Rep. Andy Thompson, a Republican, saying it's kind of "creepy the way this whole thing landed in Ohio with all the things prepackaged."

It's playing out in Louisiana, where GOP Gov. Bobby Jindal is in a nasty feud involving his former ally, Education Superintendent John White. Jindal has sued the Obama administration, accusing Washington of illegally manipulating federal grant money and regulations to force states to adopt the Common Core education standards.

The standards were scrapped this year in Indiana and Oklahoma. Governors in North Carolina, South Carolina and Missouri have signed legislation to reconsider the standards, even though they still will be used in those three states this fall.

Like many critics, Thompson and Jindal base their opposition on federal support of the standards. But states led the Common Core movement that really took off in 2009 and that effort was voluntary.

The administration offered incentives to states to adopt college and career-ready standards, and Common Core fit the bill. The incentives included cash grants and permission to ignore parts of the much-maligned No Child Left Behind law.

The standards emphasize critical thinking and spell out what reading and math skills students should grasp at each grade level, while leaving how those skills are mastered up to districts and states. The hope was that higher standards shared across state lines would allow for shared resources, comparable student performance measures and smoother school-to-school transitions for children who move, such as military kids.

Nearly every state adopted the standards.

DEBATE SPREADS

The debate over Common Core has spilled into the national political realm. Among potential GOP presidential candidates in 2016, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush supports the standards; Jindal, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul do not.

Teachers' unions, historically aligned with the Democrats, endorsed the standards and helped develop them. But they now complain about botched efforts to put them in place and say it's unfair to use Common Core-based assessments in new teacher evaluation systems rolling out in much of the United States.

The issue has gotten pulled into a general anti-testing backlash in parts of the country. To ease the testing concerns, Education Secretary Arne Duncan recently said he would allow states to delay using students' test scores in teacher evaluation systems.

"What really has happened is that this has become a politicized issue and it's become an ideological symbol, interestingly, on both sides," said Patrick McGuinn, a political science professor at Drew University. He said the standards and the assessments designed under them are generally considered acceptable or of high quality.

CLASSROOMS PREPARE

Far from the political discourse, American classrooms continue to be transformed by the use of the standards, with new curricula developed and teachers trained. Some parents are perplexed by the new ways their children are completing their lessons.

Supporters like former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue, a Republican who helped lead the governors' group that identified the goals set by Common Core, say politics and mistruths have hijacked a needed and effective education overhaul.

The standards were a response from governors in a defensive mode to keep the federal government out of education, Perdue said, and he supported the changes out of concern for U.S. students' global competitiveness. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is among backers.

"It's just a situation that I don't think should have become political, which has become politically toxic and I don't really know how to decontaminate that," Perdue said.

SHIFTING PUBLIC OPINION

A PDK/Gallup Poll released Aug. 20 found a dramatic change in the number of people aware of the standards. Last year, two-thirds of those surveyed said they'd never heard of the standards. This year, 81 percent said they had—and 6 in 10 said they oppose them.

Daniel A. Domenech, executive director of the national organization representing school superintendents, said polling provides more evidence it's important to "slow down to get it right."

This school year marks a milestone. This coming spring, roughly 11 million students in more than half the states are expected to take new computer-based assessments aligned with Common Core standards that were developed by two groups of states to replace the standardized tests that had been used.

AP

This photo taken Monday, Aug. 18, 2014 shows hearings on legislation to repeal Common Core academic standards in the House Finance Hearing Room at Ohio Statehouse in Columbus, Ohio.

States can choose the assessment to be used, but those decisions have not been without controversy. Some states, including Georgia and Michigan, that originally joined the consortiums, have dropped out and opted for different tests.

AWAITING RESULTS

The rollout of Common Core-based tests will be watched closely for computer glitches and other problems, as well as to see how well students perform.

The ambition of Common Core is "quite broad," said Jonathan Supovitz, co-director at the Consortium for Policy Research in Education at the University of Pennsylvania. He said the standards have the potential to bring new tools and technologies into classrooms and lead to greater student mastery of subjects, but it will take time.

"This is not going to happen overnight. It's going to take lots of resources and lots of teacher exposure to new ways of doing things and we're just at the beginning of that process," Supovitz said.

Many state lawmakers aren't willing to wait.

STATE PUSHBACK

Jindal initially supported Common Core. He said that's because the standards were first presented as a bottoms-up approach, but "the reality is what it has become is another tool for the federal government to try to dictate curriculum."

He suspended contracts that the state Department of Education planned to use to buy testing material aligned with the standards. White and education board leaders say the governor overstepped his legal authority, and they sued. A state district judge has since said the governor's actions were harmful to parents, teachers and students and he lifted Jindal's suspension of the contracts. The decision allows White to move ahead with Common Core-tied testing plans until a full trial is held later over the legality of Jindal's executive orders against the standards.

At the same time, 17 state lawmakers who oppose the standards have lodged their own legal challenge, but lost their first round in court.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan has criticized the Jindal's opposition to Common Core as politically driven. In a June interview with "CBS This Morning," the secretary said of Jindal's switched position: "It's about politics, it's not about education."

In Ohio, some teachers have raised concerns about how the standards came out, Ohio Federation of Teachers president Melissa Cropper said, but most largely support them. Some of the state's largest urban districts, such as Cleveland and Columbus, have spent two years and lots of money preparing for the rollout that started this school year, she said.

Cropper urged state lawmakers to stay the course with the standards, which were adopted in 2010.

"All that time, energy and resources would be wasted," Cropper said. "I think it will absolutely throw our districts in chaos."

State Rep. Thompson, whose wife is a Spanish teacher, isn't convinced. He says Ohio and other states adopted the standards in the wake of the economic downturn because they were in desperate need of money.

"When you take federal leverage, it affected people's behavior," Thompson said.

OTHER VOICES

Parents and educators opposed to the standards in Ohio were allotted three full days of hearings in mid-August to discuss the merits of replacing Common Core. Defenders of the standards were relegated to holding news conferences.

Lincoln Bramlage, a father of three from Ottawa-Glandorf in northwest Ohio, said the standards are "hardly relevant." He added: "We need to fight for the teachers and the kids. This is not education. It's indoctrination."

Carrie Moenster, a parent and teacher, said she's seen her fourth-grade students in tears because they couldn't understand math standards that she called "abstract and developmentally inappropriate."

"One child who was once very confident comes up to our desks repeatedly while working on an independent assignment because he doesn't trust his own mind and judgment anymore," she said.

Admissions of Chinese students to US grad schools level off

By DON LEE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON—For years, soaring numbers of Chinese graduate students in the U.S. have been a boon for American universities and local economies, especially in places like Southern California.

But it looks like the influx could be slowing.

Admission offers from U.S. graduate schools to Chinese nationals, who make up one-third of all international master's and doctoral degree students in the U.S., flattened this year after nearly a decade of rapid annual growth, according to the Council of Graduate Schools, a Washington nonprofit.

As recently as 2012, admission offers to prospective Chinese graduate students shot up by 20 percent.

At the same time, applications from prospective Chinese graduate students are also leveling off, dropping 1 percent this year, the nonprofit group said.

The council does not track information on Chinese students seeking bachelor's degrees in the U.S., and experts and officials at universities said there were no hard data to suggest that the number of Chinese undergraduates at American schools has slowed from the double-digit annual increases seen over the last decade.

But if the Council of Graduate Schools' admissions data prove to be on the mark, as they have in the past, American universities could see a drop in overall foreign graduate students in the not-too-distant future because the Chinese have been driving the growth in graduate enrollment in recent years.

That could financially pinch some schools that have come to rely more on Chinese and other international students to fill their graduate programs.

Experts said one factor behind the apparent shift from China is the same force that has hurt prices of steel and other raw materials: slower growth in the world's second-largest economy in the last two years.

"It's not realistic to expect the Chinese numbers to rise as fast as previously," said Dali Yang, faculty director of the University of Chicago Center in Beijing. "As growing numbers of Chinese students study abroad, the allure may have also been somewhat diminished for some students."

Life & Style

Inquiries begin into nude celebrity photo leaks

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The FBI said Monday it was addressing allegations that online accounts of several celebrities, including Oscar-winner Jennifer Lawrence, had been hacked, leading to the posting of their nude photographs online.

The agency did not say what actions it was taking to investigate who was responsible for posting naked photos of Lawrence and other stars. Apple said Monday it was looking into whether its online photo-sharing service had been hacked to obtain the intimate images.

Lawrence, a three-time Oscar nominee who won for her role in "Silver Linings Playbook," contacted authorities after the images began appearing Sunday.

Naked images purporting to be of other female stars were also posted, although the authenticity of many couldn't be confirmed. The source of the leak was unclear.

"This is a flagrant violation of privacy," Lawrence's publicist Liz Mahoney wrote in a statement. "The authorities have been contacted and will prosecute anyone who posts the stolen photos of Jennifer Lawrence."

The FBI said it was "aware of the allegations concerning computer intrusions and the unlawful release of material involving high profile individuals, and is addressing the matter."

"Any further comment would be inappropriate at this time," spokeswoman Laura Eimiller wrote in a statement.

Apple Inc. spokeswoman Natalie Kerris said the company was investigating whether any iCloud accounts had been tampered with, but she did not give any further details.

"We take user privacy very seriously and are actively investigating this report," she said.

Actress Mary Elizabeth Winstead also confirmed that nude photos of her were posted online.

"To those of you looking at photos I took with my husband years ago in the privacy of our home, hope you feel great about yourselves," Winstead posted on Twitter. Winstead, who starred in "Final Destination 3" and "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter," wrote that she thought the images had been destroyed.

"Knowing those photos were deleted long ago, I can only imagine the creepy effort that went into this," Winstead wrote.

The FBI has investigated previous leaks of nude celebrity images, including leaks involving Scarlett Johansson, Mila Kunis, Christina Aguilera and footage of television sports reporter Erin Andrews in a Tennessee hotel room. Those cases resulted in convictions.

How widespread the hacking of celebrities photos was is not immediately clear. Some of the images were quickly denounced as fakes.

Some cybersecurity experts speculated that hackers may have obtained a cache of private celebrity images by exploiting weaknesses in an online image-storing platform.

"It is important for celebrities and the general public to remember that images and data no longer just reside on the device that captured it," security researcher Ken Westin wrote in a blog post Monday. "Once images and other data are uploaded to the cloud, it becomes much more difficult to control who has access to it, even if we think it is private."

Private information and images of celebrities are frequent targets for hackers. Last year, a site posted credit reports, Social Security numbers and other financial info on celebrities, including Jay Z and his wife Beyonce, Mel Gibson, Ashton Kutcher and many others.

Johansson, Kunis and Aguilera were hacked by a Florida man, Christopher Chaney, who used publicly available information to hack into the email accounts of more than 50 people in the entertainment industry.

AP

In this Sunday, March 2, 2014, file photo, Jennifer Lawrence arrives at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Burning Man festival draws peak crowd of 66,000

AP

Burning Man participants walk through dust at the annual Burning Man event on the Black Rock Desert of Gerlach, Nev., on Friday, Aug. 29, 2014.

RENO, Nevada (AP)—The Burning Man counterculture festival drew a peak crowd of nearly 66,000 celebrants as it neared an end Monday on the northern Nevada desert.

Friday's official peak attendance of 65,922 was within the population cap of 68,000 the federal Bureau of Land Management imposed on the quirky art and music festival 110 miles (177 kilometers) north of Reno, said Gene Seidlitz, manager of the agency's Winnemucca District.

The number was down from last year's record peak crowd of 69,613, which resulted in organizers being placed on probation for a second time in three years for violating the limit.

Organizers had been warned that if they were placed on probation a second straight year, the agency might suspend or cancel their permit.

"That (crowd size) is not a problem this year," Seidlitz said, adding the attendance cap was one of 55 conditions organizers had to comply with under terms of their permit.

"We don't see any reason why we shouldn't meet all other stipulations," Burning Man spokesman Jim Graham said.

Overall, the weeklong festival leading up to the Labor Day holiday on Monday was successful and safe except for Thursday's death of a 29-year-old Wyoming woman who was struck by a bus carrying passengers on the playa of the Black Rock Desert, Seidlitz said.

Crime statistics will not be released until later this month, he added.

Rain early on closed the gate for a day—the longest closure in the event's history—and dust storms caused occasional white-out conditions Friday.

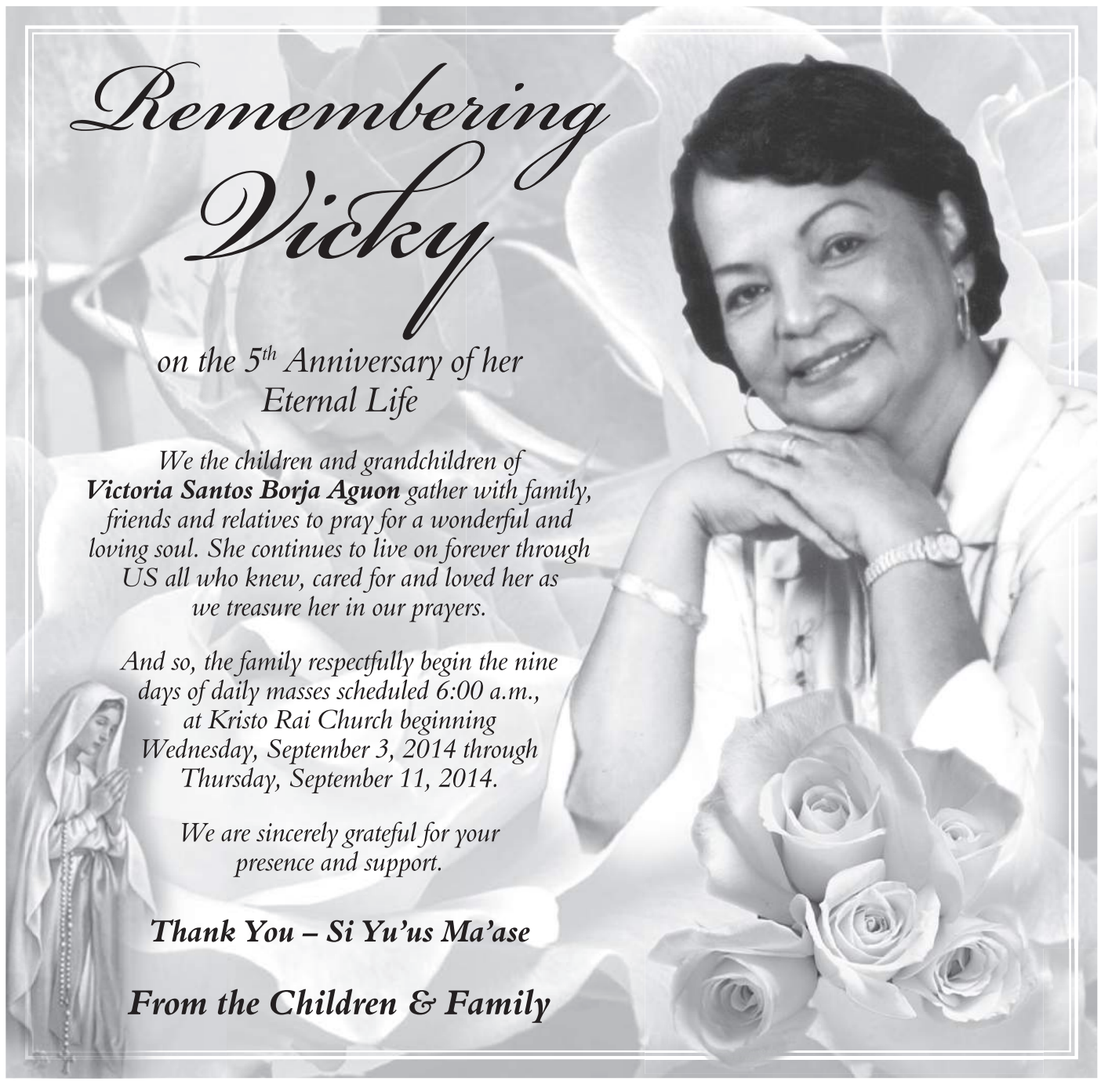
But the festival's eclectic artwork, offbeat theme camps, concerts and other entertainment drew praise from participants from around the world.

"Actually, I feel renewed faith in humanity," John Bacon, of Seattle, told KRNV-TV.

Ron Adair, of Ojai, California, said he felt "a little tired."

"It's a little hard to have that many nights in a row and get by on four, five, six hours of sleep every night," Adair said.

After it moved from San Francisco, the inaugural Burning Man in Nevada drew only about 80 people in 1990.


Remembering
Vicky
on the 5th Anniversary of her
Eternal Life
We the children and grandchildren of
Victoria Santos Borja Aguon gather with family,
friends and relatives to pray for a wonderful and
loving soul. She continues to live on forever through
US all who knew, cared for and loved her as
we treasure her in our prayers.
And so, the family respectfully begin the nine
days of daily masses scheduled 6:00 a.m.,
at Kristo Rai Church beginning
Wednesday, September 3, 2014 through
Thursday, September 11, 2014.
We are sincerely grateful for your
presence and support.
Thank You – Si Yu'us Ma'ase
From the Children & Family

Islamic State group becomes target of Arab satire

BAGHDAD (AP)—The bumbling young militant first drops the rocket launcher on the toes of his boss before taking aim and firing toward a military checkpoint outside of an Iraqi town—not realizing he's fired it backward at his leader.

The "Looney Tunes"-style cartoon targeting the Islamic State group comes after its militants have swept across large swaths of Syria and Iraq, declaring their own self-styled caliphate while conducting mass shootings of their prisoners. The group cheers its advances and beheadings in slickly produced Internet videos.

In response, television networks across the Middle East have begun airing cartoons and comedy programs using satire to criticize the group and its claims of representing Islam. And while not directly confronting the group's battlefield gains, the shows challenge the legitimacy of its claims and chip away at the fear some have that the Islamic militants are unstoppable.

AP

In this image made from an undated cartoon broadcast on state-run al-Iraqiya TV in Iraq, a cartoon character portrayed as a member or a supporter of the Islamic State group sings a song.

"These people are not a true representation of Islam and so by mocking them, it is a way to show that we are against them," said Nabil Assaf, one of the producers and writers of Lebanon's "Ktir Salbe Show," which has challenged the group. "Of course it's a sensitive issue, but this is one way to reject extremism and make it so the people are not afraid."

Satire has long been a force in Arab culture, beginning first with its ancient poetry. Indirect criticism once cloaked in self-censorship exploded out into the open during Arab Spring revolts. Even in the midst of Syria's bloody civil war, the country's renowned black, satirical humor has continued.

The Islamic State group, born out the Syrian war, now finds itself challenged in a cultural war after its gains. The top Islamic authority in Egypt recently began an online campaign asking journalists not to call the group an "Islamic State." Comedians have followed suit.

In one skit produced by the "Ktir Salbe Show," a taxi driver picks up a jihadi who rejects listening to radio because it didn't exist in the earliest days of Islam, a knock on the Islamic State group's literal take on the Quran. The driver offers to turn on the air conditioning, but that too is rejected. The jihadi finally criticizes him for answering a mobile phone.

Fed up, the driver asks: "Were there taxi cabs in the earliest days?"

"No, 1,000 times no!" the passenger answers. The driver responds by kicking out the jihadi and telling him to wait for a camel instead.

In Syria, comedic news programs also target the Islamic State group, with its presenters disguising themselves out of fears of retaliation. In Iraq, an animated program on state television depicted a slew of characters on the run from the Iraqi military, including young Islamic State militants and old Saddam Hussein-era officials.

"We are all against these terrorist organizations," said Alaa al-Majedi of the state-run al-Iraqiya channel. "Comedy is one way to raise awareness."

But among those depicted in the cartoon is Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah, an accusation that the Sunni kingdom supports the Sunni Islamic State militants, something Saudi officials have denied. Saudi Arabia backs the rebels fighting to topple Syrian President Bashar Assad's government.

Even the dark videos of mass shootings conducted by the Islamic State group have become comedic fodder. Palestinian television channel al-Falastiniya aired a skit showing two militants shoot Muslim civilians for their lack of knowledge on the number of times to kneel during prayers, all the while reminiscing over the beautiful women and best party neighborhoods they'd visited in Beirut.

When a Jordanian Christian approaches, the two militants begin fighting each other over who gets to shoot him—each wanting the "blessing" for himself. Terrified, the man suffers a fatal heart attack, leaving the militants devastated.

'Guardians' tops Labor Day, summer box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The intergalactic misfits of "Guardians of the Galaxy" are the summer's box-office superheroes.

Marvel's cosmic romp topped the Labor Day box office with a three-day take of $22 million—its third time in first place since its release five weeks ago, according to studio estimates Monday. With North American ticket sales of more than $280 million so far, "Guardians" is also the summer's—and the year's—top-grossing film to date domestically.

Still, summer box-office totals are down almost 15 percent from last year, said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak.

"This is the lowest summer since 2006 in terms of revenue," he said. "Before 'Guardians,' we were sitting on a 20 percent deficit compared to last year."

"Transformers: Age of Extinction," which opened in late June, also boosted the summer box office with $1 billion in global ticket sales. "Maleficent" was another hit, bringing in more than $230 million domestically.

"This was never expected to be a record-breaking summer," Dergarabedian said, "but it maybe came in under expectations."

The World Cup may have distracted moviegoers, he said. Also, the death of Paul Walker caused the seventh installment of "Fast & Furious"—which might have added around $200 million to the summer box office—to be postponed until next year.

Last summer broke box-office records with the success of "Iron Man 3," "Star Trek," "The Heat" and "Despicable Me 2." Next summer is expected to make history again with hotly anticipated releases including "Star Wars," "Avengers: Age of Ultron" and Pixar's "Inside Out."

"Summer of 2014 is a transitional summer between two record-breaking years," Dergarabedian said.

The top movies over the lackluster Labor Day holiday were the same as the previous weekend. Paramount's "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" followed "Guardians" with $15.7 million, while Warner Bros.' young-adult drama, "If I Stay" took third place with $11.6 million.

"We went out with a whimper," Dergarabedian said. "We wound up a very exasperating summer on a very quiet note."

1. "Guardians of the Galaxy," $22.2 million ($19.7 million international).
2. "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," $15.7 million ($13 million international).
3. "If I Stay," $11.6 million ($4.6 million international).
4. "Let's Be Cops," $10.5 million ($6.6 million international).
5. "As Above, So Below," $10.3 million ($1.4 million international).
6. "The November Man," $10.2 million.
7. "When the Game Stands Tall," $8 million.
8. "The Giver," $6.9 million.
9. "The Hundred-Foot Journey," $6.3 million.

AP

This undated image released by Disney - Marvel shows, from left, Zoe Saldana, the character Rocket Raccoon, voiced by Bradley Cooper, Chris Pratt, the character Groot, voiced by Vin Diesel and Dave Bautista in a scene from "Guardians Of The Galaxy".

Miley Cyrus' date turns self in, posts bail

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP)—The young homeless man who accompanied Miley Cyrus to the MTV Video Music Awards and who had been sought on an Oregon arrest warrant has turned himself in and posted bail, an Oregon official said Thursday night.

Jesse Helt, 22, turned himself in at the Polk County Jail in the Willamette Valley community of Dallas, Oregon, was booked on a probation violation warrant and then posted $2,500 bail, said Martin Silbernagel, director of Polk County Community Corrections .

Helt will be expected to appear before a judge in about two weeks, Silbernagel said in a telephone interview.

Court records show that Helt pleaded guilty to misdemeanor criminal mischief and criminal trespass several years ago after breaking into the apartment of a man he believed to be selling bad marijuana. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail and probation. The arrest warrant was issued in November 2011 after he violated probation.

Helt moved to Los Angeles and lived on the streets while trying to find work as a model.

He gained worldwide attention Sunday when Cyrus let him accept her award for video of the year. Helt, who met Cyrus through the Hollywood homeless center My Friend's Place, used the platform to call attention to the issue of youth homelessness.

"I am accepting this award on behalf of the 1.6 million runaways and homeless youth in the United States who are starving, lost, and scared for their lives right now," Helt said. "I know this because I am one of these people."

Cyrus selected the charity with help from her friend Trevor Neilson, the president of G2 Investment Group and co-founder of Global Philanthropy Group.

"Jesse Helt turned himself in tonight to Polk County authorities to address his outstanding legal issues," Neilson said in an email late Thursday. "Miley Cyrus will be assisting him with this process, and they both are committed to working to help the other 1.6 million youth who experience homelessness in America each year."

Jesse's mother, Linda Helt, said late Thursday that the past four days had been a whirlwind experience, and she confirmed that Cyrus has offered to help pay for her son's legal help.

"God gets the glory and she gets the credit," Helt said.

Ex-Myanmar beauty queen accused of stealing crown

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's first international beauty queen has absconded with her $100,000 crown after being stripped of her title for being rude and dishonest, organizers said Friday.

May Myat Noe's photograph was blacked out on the Miss Asia Pacific World website, the word "dethroned" stamped alongside her name.

"She thinks as long as she keeps this crown she's the winner," said David Kim, director of media for the South Korea-based pageant. "She's not."

Organizers said Noe had "lied" and proved to be untrustworthy, but provided few details.

Noe was not immediately available for comment. She planned to hold a news conference at a later time, according to Eleven Media, a Myanmar newspaper.

Hla Nu Tun, who initially acted as her unofficial manager, said Noe and the organizers had disagreed over who should oversee her career. Noe's mother wanted control but so did the organizers, she said.

AP

In this June 5, 2014 file photo, Myanmar model May Myat Noe, winner of Miss Asia Pacific World 2014 pageant, waves a miniature flag of the country upon her arrival at Yangon International Airport in Yangon, Myanmar.

A half-century of military rule and self-imposed isolation kept Myanmar contestants off the stage of international beauty contests until 2012. When Noe was crowned in May, it was seen as a new beginning for young, talented beauties.

Following her victory, the organizers said they would arrange singing and video deals for her. But they also wanted to change the 172-centimeter (5-foot 7-inch) teen's looks, Kim said.

One of the pageant's primary goals, he said, is to turn winners into regional superstars: actresses, pop icons, and world-class models.

It was decided that Noe's breasts were too small and could hold her back, and she accepted an offer of enhancements, he said.

"We thought she should be more beautiful ... so we sent her to the hospital to operate on her breasts," Kim said, adding that sponsors picked up the $10,000 tab, as they had for previous winners.

"It's our responsibility," he said. "If she has no good nose, then maybe, if she likes, we can operate on her nose. If it's breasts, then breasts."

Kim said that troubles started from there, with the beauty queen bringing her mother to Seoul for what was supposed to be a 10-day visit but stretched into three months.

Carrie Underwood announces pregnancy

AP

This April 19, 2012 file photo shows Carrie Underwood in Nashville, Tenn.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country star Carrie Underwood and NHL player Mike Fisher chose the Labor Day holiday to announce they are expecting their first child.

Underwood and Fisher posted the announcement on their social media accounts on Monday. Underwood's publicist confirmed the couple will be expecting their first child in the spring.

The 31-year-old Underwood shot to fame after winning "American Idol." She has won six Grammys and sold more than 15 million albums worldwide. She was the first woman to twice win the Academy of Country Music's entertainer of the year award.

She will be co-hosting the upcoming Country Music Association Awards with Brad Paisley this November.

Fisher, a 34-year-old center for the Nashville Predators, is recovering from a ruptured left Achilles tendon and is expected to miss the start of the season.

Placido Domingo closing act at London festival

LONDON (AP)—Placido Domingo will be the closing act at this year's iTunes Festival in London.

The famed Spanish tenor will perform Sept. 30 at the Roundhouse—the last performance of a month-long, starry line-up, festival organizers announced.

Deadmau5 kicks off the concerts on Monday night, followed by headline sets from pop names like Pharrell Williams, Calvin Harris, The Script and Ed Sheeran.

Kylie Minogue, Kasabian, Mary J. Blige, Blondie, Maroon 5 and Robert Plant are also playing the festival.

The organizers quoted Domingo as saying he was thrilled to appear and for "the recognition that this brings to the unique and magnificent world of opera and of classical music."

Tickets are for competition winners, but gigs can be streamed live in more than 100 countries or watched on-demand.

AP

Spanish tenor Placido Domingo gives details about the opera competition Operalia at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2014.

MDA fundraiser raises $52M

CHICAGO (AP)—The Muscular Dystrophy Association's nationally broadcast annual telethon has raised about $52.3 million in contributions over the Labor Day weekend.

The two-hour "MDA Show of Strength" aired Sunday on ABC, and the organization says it will continue accepting donations through Monday. A final tally's expected Tuesday.

MDA president and CEO Steven M. Derks says it was inspiring to see so many celebrities, musicians and athletes join forces to help raise money for the treatment of muscular dystrophy and related diseases.

Grammy-winner LeAnn Rimes, Rascal Flatts and hip-hop star Jason Derulo were part of the show's lineup this year, along with other entertainers.

The telethon was the fourth since comedian Jerry Lewis's 45-year role as host ended. The 2013 telethon raised more than $59 million.

Husband is reluctant spectator at wife's parade in the nude

DEAR ABBY: My wife walks around our house nude or topless with the shades open, and anybody walking outside can see in. Recently she did this while some painting contractors were working around our house. I have begged her not to, to no avail. What should I do?

MORE MODEST IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR M.M.: It appears you married an exhibitionist. You might point out to her that parading around that way could be considered disrespectful to the workers she's exposed herself to. But don't be surprised if she's unwilling to change because it may give her some kind of thrill. (I'm sure it also gives the viewers something to talk about around the dinner table.)

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Please remind beachgoers that they need to leave their fire pits OPEN and not cover them with sand. My 16-month-old grandnephew was walking on a beach in Carmel, California, with his mom and dad when he suffered burns to his feet from walking across sand beneath which were hot coals. It will take at least three weeks for this dear baby's feet to heal from those burns.

People don't realize that covering the coals with sand hides them and keeps them hot for up to 24 hours! Beach fires must be treated differently from those in a forest, where they should be covered with dirt because of the surrounding trees.

BEACH ETIQUETTE

DEAR B.E.: I'm printing your letter not only as a warning to beachgoers who might be using fire pits, but also to the parents of small children because hot buried coals can be a hidden danger to their little ones. Because the coals cannot be seen, children sometimes confuse fire pits ringed by rocks with "sandboxes," and the results can be tragic.

According to the University of California Irvine's Regional Burn Center, "coals should be extinguished by drenching them with water, waiting five minutes and drenching them AGAIN." (Italics are mine.) When water isn't available, the coals should simply be allowed to burn out.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Patrick," and I were married last year. On the morning of our wedding, his grandmother, "Sally," died. It was very sudden. Everyone assumed we'd postpone it, but we didn't.

Abby, my husband is still emotionally distraught over her death. Patrick's parents were absent from his life and Grandma Sally had raised him. Did we make a mistake by not postponing our wedding? How can I help him?

SAD NEW WIFE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR SAD NEW WIFE: Life is for the living. I don't know how large your wedding was, but if there were contracts involved (hall, flowers, music, caterer, guests coming in from out of town, etc.), you were right to follow through with your plans. I am sure that's what Grandma Sally would have wanted.

Please convey to your husband how sorry I am for his loss. Because he is moving so slowly through the grieving process, it would be helpful for him to contact a grief support group. To find one, he can ask a doctor, clergyman or hospice for a referral.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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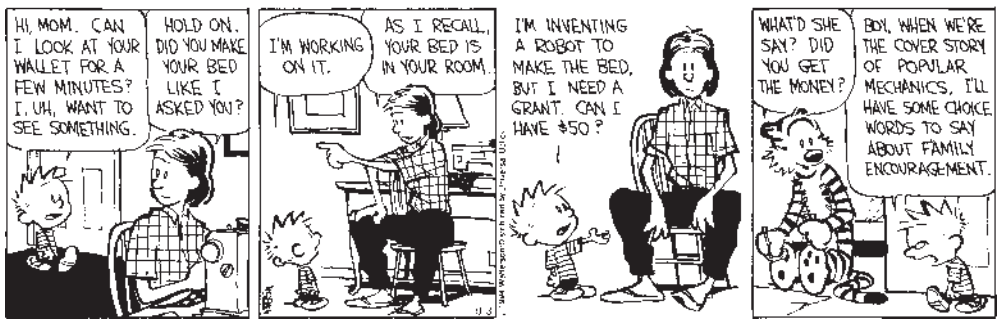
What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

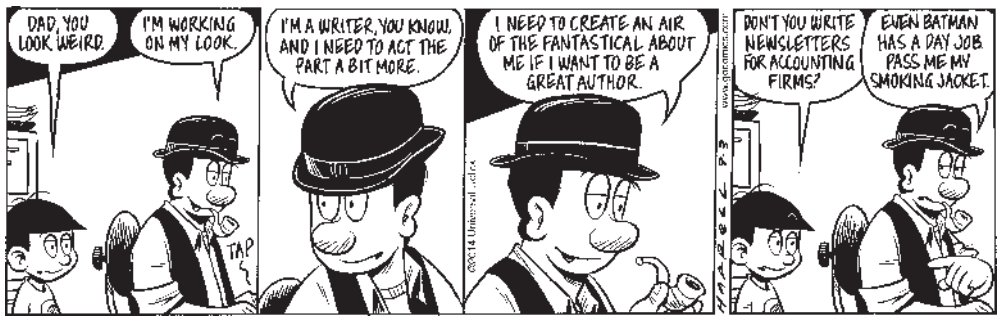

HI, MOM. CAN I LOOK AT YOUR WALLET FOR A FEW MINUTES? I, UH, WANT TO SEE SOMETHING.
HOLD ON. DID YOU MAKE YOUR BED LIKE I ASKED YOU?
I'M WORKING ON IT.
AS I RECALL, YOUR BED IS IN YOUR ROOM.
I'M INVENTING A ROBOT TO MAKE THE BED, BUT I NEED A GRANT. CAN I HAVE $50?
WHAT'D SHE SAY? DID YOU GET THE MONEY?
BOY, WHEN WE'RE THE COVER STORY OF POPULAR MECHANICS, I'LL HAVE SOME CHOICE WORDS TO SAY ABOUT FAMILY ENCOURAGEMENT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

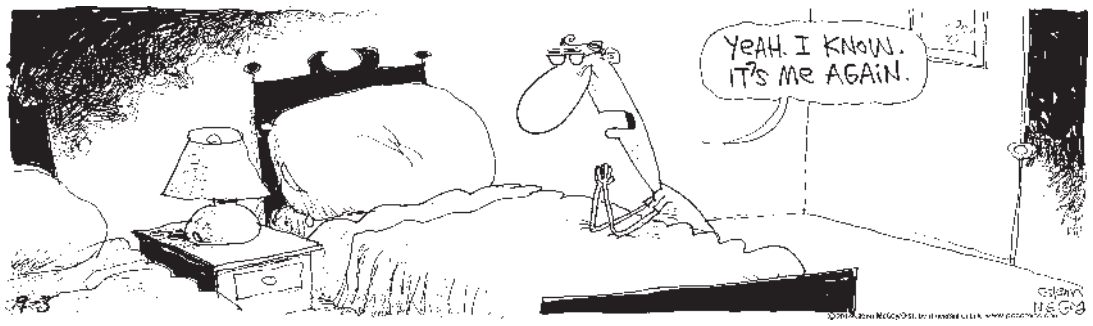
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DAD, YOU LOOK WEIRD.
I'M WORKING ON MY LOOK.
TAP
I'M A WRITER, YOU KNOW, AND I NEED TO ACT THE PART A BIT MORE.
I NEED TO CREATE AN AIR OF THE FANTASTICAL ABOUT ME IF I WANT TO BE A GREAT AUTHOR.
DON'T YOU WRITE NEWSLETTERS FOR ACCOUNTING FIRMS?
EVEN BATMAN HAS A DAY JOB. PASS ME MY SMOKING JACKET.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

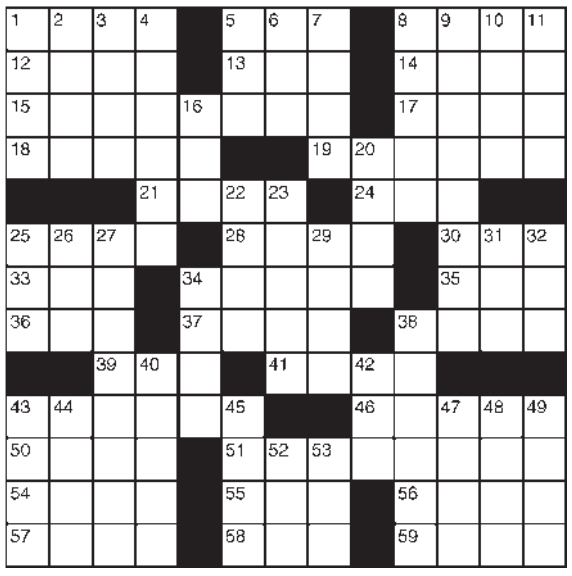
ACROSS
1 Obama predecessor
5 Sch. org.
8 Rose's love, in an old play
12 Largest continent
13 Island adornment
14 Chest muscles
15 Threw under the bus
17 Hearty quaffs
18 Regions
19 Elf
21 Factory pallet
24 Chowed down
25 Apple co-founder
28 Taverns
30 By way of
33 Rd.
34 Maximum
35 Goof up
36 Bankroll
37 "— It Romantic?"
38 Leading man?
39 Ram's mate
41 Ooze
43 Alpaca's cousin
46 Valerie Harper role
50 Cartoonist's supply
51 Lamented
54 Experts
55 Writer Buscaglia
56 Symbol of thinness
57 Lord's mate
58 Wapiti
59 Any day now

DOWN
1 Rum cake
2 PC operator
3 Location
4 Really annoy
5 Thickness
6 Ball prop
7 Helps
8 In two places at once?
9 Bought
10 "Law & Order: SVU" actor
11 Being, to Brutus
16 Request
20 History
22 Wading bird
23 Curses
25 Mandible
26 Eggs
27 Festooned
29 Ceremony
31 Savings plan acronym
32 Branch
34 Borrower's burden
38 Plant lice
40 Wimpy
42 Historic period
43 Test tube
44 Erstwhile Peruvian
45 Competent
47 Medley
48 Showroom sample
49 Mideast gulf
52 Conger, for one
53 Stir-fry pan

Solution time: 24 mins.

D	I	S	C	■	P	O	D	■	D	A	S	H
O	R	E	O	■	R	A	E	■	O	L	I	O
R	E	N	O	V	A	T	E	■	G	O	R	E
■	■	■	L	A	Y	■	P	U	T	T	E	D
S	I	E	E	T	■	M	E	S	A	■	■	■
P	A	R	R	■	R	E	N	E	G	A	D	E
L	Z	I	■	O	U	T	E	R	■	W	A	X
B	E	N	O	W	N	E	D	■	U	L	N	A
■	■	■	B	E	N	S	■	A	S	S	A	M
T	S	Γ	T	S	F	■	A	I	Γ	■	■	■
I	O	I	A	■	H	E	N	I	F	O	H	M
M	I	N	I	■	U	R	N	■	U	V	E	A
F	L	A	N	■	P	R	Γ	■	L	A	D	Y

Yesterday's answer 9-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shaun White, 28; Garrett Hedlund, 30; Paz de la Huerta, 30; Charlie Sheen, 49.

Happy Birthday: Look at your options and make changes that will secure your financial position. Downsize or invest in something that has the potential to grow or help you establish your position amongst your peers. Take better care of your health and wellbeing. Protect against minor mishaps, accidents and physical setbacks that will put a wedge between you and your goals. Your numbers are 6, 11, 18, 23, 27, 31, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Put creative thought into any job or responsibility you pursue. Exploring new ways to present who you are and what you have to offer will build confidence and aid you in making transitions that will help you advance. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't look at what you are missing; look at what you have. You will learn from experience and the encounters you have with people who touch you emotionally. Size up your situation and make whatever adjustments required to obtain a secure future. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Keep moving forward and don't take everything others say to heart. Make your own decisions based on thorough findings. Use your intelligence and refuse to let your emotions interfere with making a wise practical choice. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Rely on good old-fashioned hands-on physical work. Too much thinking and not enough action will be your downfall. Don't procrastinate or you will appear unorganized and lazy. It doesn't matter how you reach your destination, it's getting there that counts. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You may want to do things in a big and bold manner, but it's important to keep whatever you do moderate and within your budget. You can make positive changes with a little effort and common sense. Don't let jealousy cost you. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Emotional problems will escalate quickly if you are unreasonable regarding domestic matters. Find a way to compromise and collaborate in order to keep the peace without jeopardizing your principles. Take care of responsibilities before someone criticizes you. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Travel, participation and spending time in the company of people you love or admire will lead to personal changes that will improve your life and your outlook. Walk away from anyone making demands. Exclude whatever or whoever is negative in your life. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put your creative ideas into motion. Money will come to you from an unexpected source. A lifestyle change will allow you to regain your strength, integrity and ease your stress. Common sense coupled with responsibility will be necessary. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll attract attention and dazzle people with your wit and ability to charm and tempt. Love is on the rise, and doing something romantic will lead to an interesting change in an important relationship. Positive change is heading your way. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Bet on your own ability to get things done. Someone will talk big but do little. Getting upset or angry will be a waste of time that is better spent chasing success. Being responsible, dedicated and loyal will not go unnoticed. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take on a challenge that will help fulfill a dream or a cause that means a lot to you. Your personal life will suffer unnecessarily if you opt to argue instead of being affectionate. Make positive personal changes. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A partnership can bring you greater financial stability. Listen to any offer or propose what you think is workable, but take a wait-and-see approach before you begin to negotiate. Don't let your emotions dictate your actions. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unique, outgoing and entertaining. You are intuitive and pioneering.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4	1				
			3		9	6		
		5					1	
	7		9					1
5					4			7
4		1	2	7				6
8	6		5				4	
		9				5		
		2	8	4	6	1	9	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	4	7	9	3	2	1	5	6
1	9	2	6	4	5	7	8	3
3	6	5	7	8	1	2	4	9
4	5	6	2	9	7	8	3	1
9	7	3	4	1	8	5	6	2
2	8	1	5	6	3	4	9	7
7	3	8	1	5	6	9	2	4
5	2	4	3	7	9	6	1	8
6	1	9	8	2	4	3	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/02

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ABOUT TREES **Solution: 9 letters**

L	I	P	L	A	N	T	A	T	I	B	A	H	S	M
A	A	C	F	I	R	N	G	A	R	D	E	N	S	A
O	S	T	R	U	Y	E	P	T	L	A	R	E	D	S
C	N	O	N	O	E	I	O	I	P	E	L	R	K	M
R	O	K	F	E	W	C	L	M	F	D	A	P	A	L
A	B	D	L	T	M	N	L	B	E	H	E	V	O	A
H	R	E	T	A	W	A	E	E	C	O	N	E	E	P
C	N	E	G	Y	X	O	N	R	S	T	O	O	H	S
O	B	S	D	F	S	F	O	R	E	S	T	S	G	R
R	R	O	U	N	D	E	D	D	O	Z	H	N	E	E
K	O	E	T	E	C	U	R	P	S	A	I	T	E	P
W	L	K	R	A	B	E	O	O	D	L	L	S	R	I
L	I	O	S	U	N	T	O	E	P	Ⓔ	Ⓛ	Ⓜ	T	N
R	F	H	D	I	E	Y	T	A	H	S	T	U	N	U
E	E	S	P	A	R	K	S	S	E	R	P	Y	C	J

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Ancient, Ash, Bark, Bonsai, Botany, Buds, Charcoal, Cone, Cork, Crown, Cypress, Elm, Ferns, Fir, Forests, Fuel, Gardens, Habitat, Juniper, Leaves, Life, Needles, Nuts, Oak, Orchard, Ornamental, Oxygen, Palms, Parks, Pine, Plant, Pollen, Poplar, Roots, Rounded, Sapling, Seed, Shade, Shelter, Shoots, Size, Softwood, Soil, Spores, Spruce, Timber, Tree, Trunk, Water, Woody, Yew

Yesterday's Answer: Vacation

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 or 18 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

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Operate computers with accounting softwares to record, store, & analyze information. Comply with federal state & company policies, procedures and regulations. Prepare financial statements for management purposes & for govt. regulatory compliance.

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Remove damaged components of vehicles or heavy equipment using metal- cutting guns, air grinders and wrenches; install replacement parts using wrenches or welding equipment and other related tools. Grind down welds to smooth them, using power grinders and other tools. Fill dents, prime and apply paint using paint spray guns. Remove upholstery, accessories, electrical window and seat operating equipment, and trim to gain access to vehicle or equipment bodies and fenders.

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Interested qualified applicants submit complete application or resume and latest police clearance via e-mail at saipan@aiconstruction.com or mail to AIC Marianas, Inc., PMB 564 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950
Closing date: 9/03/2014

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- High school graduate
- 4 years experience in offset color printing. Expert with GTO machines.
- Able to independently operate equipment, routine maintenance and work flexible hours

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Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course; At least 3 years work related experience; Above-average writing skills and a competent grasp of grammar and syntax; With rigorous standards for accuracy and detail; Ability to work within deadlines and in a stressful environment; Knowledgeable in all types of writing, including news and features; With photography skills.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, September 12, 2014.

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JVA# 1-2014-9

IT&E needs Part-Time Wireless Handset Technician for the Wireless Handset department. The Wireless Handset Technician provides technical assistance to customers and other staff in the provisioning, testing and troubleshooting of pre-marketed, inventory and client-owned wireless handsets, smart-phones and air cards.

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- friendly and outgoing personality.

Interested candidates must complete an IT&E application by September 9, 2014 and submit it to IT&E Headquarters building in Susupe.

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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Hamels, 3 Phils relievers combine to no-hit Braves

ATLANTA (AP) — On Labor Day, Cole Hamels and the Philadelphia bullpen spread the workload on a no-hitter.

Hamels and three Phillies relievers combined on the season's fourth no-hitter, blanking the Atlanta Braves 7-0 Monday and giving a last-place team a rare reason to celebrate.

It was all the more unusual in that Hamels left the game with his bid intact after six innings. He was fine with the decision, too, having already thrown 108 pitches at a hot afternoon at Turner Field.

"Just understanding the situation, every time I went out there I was battling control issues," Hamels said. "I wasn't getting ahead of guys. Walking the leadoff hitter will put you in a lot of trouble, and it does. It builds up your pitch count."

Hamels (8-6) struck out seven, matched a season high with five walks and hit a batter.

Relievers Jake Diekman, Ken Giles and Jonathan Papelbon each pitched a perfect inning to close out the 11th combined no-hitter in big league history. A smiling Hamels watched from the bench as they finished off what he started.

"I think having a combined no-hitter is very difficult because guys have to come right in and get the guys out, no matter what the situation is," Hamels said. "It's a little more dramatic to be able to see that you're trying to play the cards as best you can against the lineup."

Manager Ryne Sandberg knew Hamels was tired and ready to come out of the game. Their discussion was a quick one.

"It didn't take long," Sandberg said. "He was pretty well spent there. The early innings had something to do with it. The stressful innings, stranding the runners at second and third a couple of times, but he wasn't going to go nine. And he ran the bases the inning before."

Papelbon was in the middle of the hugs and handshakes on the mound when it was over.

"I think it's a cool experience," Papelbon said. "It's definitely been a rough go at it this year for our ballclub. Something to kind of hang our hat on for the year. Cole has been our bona fide ace for the entire the season, and it's good to preserve those wins for our starters. Today it was preserving a no-hitter."

Clayton Kershaw and Josh Beckett of the Dodgers and Tim Lincecum of the Giants threw no-hitters earlier this year.

Right fielder Marlon Byrd foiled the Braves' best bid for a hit. With runners on second and third in the third inning, Byrd raced in and toward the line to make a diving catch on Chris Johnson's slicing liner to end the inning.

"It happened at a perfect time, making that catch," Byrd said. "Keeping him in the game, keeping us in the lead, the whole nine. It was nice."

AP

Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher Cole Hamels works in the second inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves Monday, Sept. 1, 2014, in Atlanta.

Johnson came close again in the ninth with a grounder up the middle. Shortstop Jimmy Rollins ranged behind the bag to make the play.

Phil Gosselin then lined out to first baseman Darin Ruf, who had taken over in the ninth for Ryan Howard, to end the game.

Hamels singled and scored in the sixth inning, and got pats of congratulations in the dugout after pitching the bottom half. He was on deck in the seventh, but Sandberg's decision already was made when Hamels was pulled for pinch-hitter Grady Sizemore.

The 30-year-old Hamels already had impressive accomplishments on his resume - in 2008, he was the MVP of the World Series and the NL championship series, and he's a three-time All-Star.

Now, the lefty can claim part of a no-no, too.

Diekman struck out two and Giles fanned three before Papelbon took over.

Kevin Millwood and five Seattle relievers teamed up to pitch the previous combined no-hitter, against the Dodgers in 2012. The first combined no-hitter came in 1917 when Babe Ruth walked the first Washington batter of the game and was ejected, and Boston Red Sox reliever Ernie Shore didn't allow another runner.

Roy Halladay pitched the previous two Phillies no-hitters - he threw a perfect game against the Marlins in 2010, then threw a no-hitter the same year in the playoffs against Cincinnati.

It was 12th no-hitter in Phillies history, and the first combined effort. The last pitcher to no-hit the Braves was Ubaldo Jimenez of Colorado in 2010.

Ben Revere tripled and drove in a career-high five runs. The leadoff man started the day with 15 RBIs this season.

Athletics 6, Mariners 1

In Oakland, Calif., Adam Dunn provided instant pop for the struggling Athletics, hitting a towering, two-run homer in his first at-bat for Oakland to highlight a win over Seattle.

Acquired a day earlier in a trade with the Chicago White Sox, Dunn became the 12th player in Oakland history to homer in his first at-bat with the team.

Dunn homered off Chris Young (12-7) during a five-run first inning. His drive was a welcome sight for a team that just got swept in a four-game series by the AL West-leading Angels and was shut out for 29 straight innings.

Jason Hammel (2-5) allowed three hits in eight innings.

Nationals 6, Dodgers 4

In Los Angeles, Denard Span hit two of Washington's four homers, Gio Gonzalez got his first victory of the second half and the Nationals beat the Dodgers in a matchup of division leaders.

The East-leading Nationals (78-58) own the NL's best record while the Dodgers (77-61) are atop the West and close behind in pursuit of the top seed, despite losing for the third time in four games.

Gonzalez (7-9) allowed three runs and three hits in six-plus innings. The left-hander was 0-5 with a 4.38 ERA in his previous nine games.

Rafael Soriano pitched a shaky ninth to earn his 31st save.

Royals 4, Rangers 3

In Kansas City, Mo., Salvador Perez homered and drove in three runs, and the Royals snapped a three-game losing streak.

Perez, who had three hits, went deep in the third with Alex Gordon aboard. His two-out double in the first scored Gordon, who had singled and swiped second.

Yordano Ventura (11-9) allowed three runs, two earned, and five hits in 6 1-3 innings for Kansas City. The right-hander, who was skipped on his previous turn in the rotation due to a sore back, struck out seven and walked four.

Twins 6, Orioles 4

In Baltimore, Joe Mauer drove in four runs, Phil Hughes held Baltimore without an earned run over eight innings and the Twins avoided a four-game sweep.

Nelson Cruz hit his major-league leading 36th home run and Nick Hundley had a three-run shot for the AL East-leading Orioles, who lost for only the second time in eight games.

Hughes (15-9) gave up five hits, no walks and three unearned runs. Glen Perkins gave up a leadoff homer to Cruz in the ninth before getting three straight outs for his 33rd save.

Tigers 12, Indians 1

In Cleveland, David Price bounced back from an alarming start and Miguel Cabrera homered twice, hitting one of Detroit's three homers off Cleveland's Corey Kluber.

Price (13-10) gave up one run and eight hits in seven innings. The left-hander was coming off a troubling loss to New York in which he allowed nine consecutive hits in one inning and eight runs over two.

Cabrera hit a two-run homer in the first inning off Kluber (13-9) and Victor Martinez and J.D. Martinez connected for consecutive shots in the third. Cabrera homered again in the eighth off rookie Bryan Price. He went 4 for 5 with three runs and three RBIs.

Rays 4, Red Sox 3, 10 innings

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Matt Joyce hit an RBI single in the 10th inning to help Tampa Bay salvage a split of a four-game series with Boston.

Ryan Hanigan opened the 10th with a double off Burke Badenhop (0-3), which withstood a replay review. Kevin Kiermaier was intentionally walked before Ben Zobrist had a sacrifice bunt. After Wil Myers was given an intentional walk, pinch-runner Sean Rodriquez, who ran for Hanigan, scored on Joyce's hit.

Grant Balfour (2-6) worked a scoreless inning for the win.

Rockies 10, Giants 9 Giants 4, Rockies 2

In Denver, Charlie Blackmon lined a two-out single in the ninth inning off Sergio Romo, helping the Rockies stop the Giants' six-game win streak on a long day at Coors Field.

Earlier in the day, the Giants broke away from a tie and beat Colorado 4-2 in a game that resumed after it was suspended May 22 in the sixth inning because of rain.

In the regularly scheduled game, Rockies reliever LaTroy Hawkins (3-2) blew a save in the top of the ninth. In the bottom half, Mike McKenry led off with a single up the middle off Romo (5-4). McKenry scored from third when Blackmon's hit fell near the right-field line.

Hunter Pence hit a three-run homer for the Giants. Pence also came up big hours earlier, when his tiebreaking double in the eighth led the Giants to the victory in the suspended game.

The earlier game of the day restarted tied at 2 with two outs in the bottom of the sixth and a runner on first. Jeremy Affeldt (4-2) struck out Josh Rutledge to end the inning.

Christian Friedrich (0-4) took the loss.

Cubs 4, Brewers 2

In Chicago, Welington Castillo homered and drove in three runs, Luis Valbuena also hit a home run and the Cubs sent Milwaukee to its sixth straight loss.

Rookie sensation Jorge Soler had two doubles in his home debut for the Cubs.

Soler became just the third player in the last 100 years to have at least one extra-base hit in each of his first five games in the majors. Will Middlebrooks did it for Boston in 2012 and Enos Slaughter for the St. Louis Cardinals in 1938.

Cardinals 5, Pirates 4

In St. Louis, Matt Holliday had the go-ahead RBI single in the seventh inning after Kolten Wong's pinch-hit homer tied it, leading the Cardinals over Pittsburgh.

St. Louis moved into sole possession of first place in the NL Central for the first time this season with its third straight win in a row. The Cardinals are one game ahead of Milwaukee.

Wong homered off Pittsburgh starter Gerrit Cole (7-5). Wong did not start after bumping his head in the eighth inning of Sunday's 9-6 win over the Cubs.

Seth Maness (6-3) picked up win in relief. Trevor Rosenthal got the last three outs for his 41st save in 46 opportunities.

Marlins 9, Mets 6

In Miami, Giancarlo Stanton hit his 34th home run and the Miami Marlins scored three runs in the eighth inning to beat the New York Mets.

Miami took advantage of some wildness by reliever Jeurys Familia (2-4) in the eighth. Familia had two throwing errors and a wild pitch.

Marlins starter Henderson Alvarez left in the third inning with a left oblique strain. A.J. Ramos (6-0) pitched a scoreless eighth and Steve Cishek pitched the ninth for his 32nd save in 36 chances.

Dilson Herrera, a 20-year-old second baseman who is the youngest player in the majors and the only one to jump from Single-A to the big leagues, hit his first career home run and first career triple while driving in three runs for the Mets.

Kirk rallies to win the Deutsche Bank

NORTON, Mass. (AP) — Chris Kirk made three big putts and captured the biggest win of his career Monday in the Deutsche Bank Championship. Whether that was enough for U.S. captain Tom Watson to add him to the Ryder Cup team was the least of his concerns.

Kirk won for the second time this season. He went the last 37 holes at the TPC Boston without a bogey. He played the final two rounds with Rory McIlroy and outplayed the No. 1 player in the world. And he closed with a 5-under 66 for a two-shot victory in a FedEx Cup playoff event.

Was it enough to convince Watson that he was worthy of a captain's pick?

"I certainly don't feel entitled, or feel like I'm a shoe-in to get a pick," Kirk said. "I've obviously really put myself into consideration, and it's something that I would love to do. But like I've said before, the nine guys that made it are automatic. Those are the guys on the team. The other three? If you get in, it's a bonus."

Then he looked at the blue trophy next to him and considered what he had just achieved.

"Winning the Deutsche Bank and going to No. 1 in the FedEx Cup, and $1.4 million, that's plenty for me for one day," he said with a smile.

Watson announces his selections Tuesday evening in New York.

Ten shots behind after the opening round, Kirk was so disgusted that he skipped his usual practice session. He was flawless the rest of the week, particularly on Monday in another wild Labor Day finish at the TPC Boston.

Kirk made three big putts on the back nine—two of them for birdie—but what pleased him the most was his 15-foot putt for par on the 15th hole that kept him in the lead.

Billy Horschel had a chance to at least force a playoff—and possibly win—when he stood in the fairway on the par-5 18th hole with a 6-iron in his hand. Horschel chunked the shot so badly that it barely reached the hazard, and he made bogey for a 69.

"The worst swing I've made all week," Horschel said.

Horschel tied for second with 54-hole leader Russell Henley (70) and Geoff Ogilvy, who extended his unlikely run through these FedEx Cup playoffs. Ogilvy was the last of the 100 qualifiers for the Deutsche Bank Championship. He went 65-65 on the weekend without a bogey.

The top 70 in the FedEx Cup advance to the BMW Championship in Denver later this week. Ogilvy went from No. 100 to No. 24, and now stands a reasonable chance of getting to the Tour Championship for the top 30.

AP

Chris Kirk holds the trophy after winning the Deutsche Bank Championship golf tournament in Norton, Mass., Monday, Sept. 1, 2014.

Kirk won for the third time in his career, though never against a field this strong, and never with this much riding on it.

He was No. 14 in the Ryder Cup standings, five spots away from being an automatic qualifier. This victory could go a long way toward Watson using one of his three selections on the 29-year-old from Georgia. Last week, Hunter Mahan bolstered his Ryder Cup case by winning The Barclays.

Kirk was trying not to think about that, saying he already had plans to be at the Georgia-Tennessee game the weekend (Sept. 26-28) of the Ryder Cup. But he would gladly break those plans for a trip to Scotland for golf's version of the Super Bowl.

"I would absolutely love to do it, but I'm not going to really base how happy I am with how I'm playing, or how my year has gone, on whether I make the team or not," Kirk said.

McIlroy, who started the final round only two shots behind on a course where he won two years ago, fell back with successive bogeys on the front nine, bounced back with a pair of birdies, and then fell out of the mix by missing two short par putts early on the back nine.

He closed with a 70 and tied for fifth with John Senden (66).

Kirk took the outright lead for the first time with a 25-foot birdie putt on the 13th hole. And right when it looked as if he was struggling with his swing, he saved par from a bunker with a 15-foot putt on the 15th. On the next hole, he made a birdie putt from just over 12 feet that gave him a two-shot lead.

Kirk, who finished at 15-under 269, failed to make birdie on a par 5 in the final round. He made a weak attempt on his 8-foot birdie try on the 18th.

That left it to Horschel, in prime position for at least a birdie.

"When Chris missed his birdie, I thought I was going to hit it on the green. I thought I was going to make the putt and make the eagle and win it outright," Horschel said. "But it just wasn't my day, I guess, to hit that bad of a shot."

A small consolation for Horschel was going from No. 82 in the FedEx Cup to No. 20, all but assuring a spot in the Tour Championship.

Six players moved into the top 70, though none was more surprising than Ogilvy. He became the first player in four years to go from No. 100 to the third playoff event.

Dizzy in heat, Bouchard out of upset-heavy US Open

NEW YORK (AP)—Bothered by the heat and stifling humidity, Eugenie Bouchard felt dizzy and her vision was blurry.

She got her blood pressure checked. Plastic bags filled with ice were rubbed on her shoulders, arms and legs during a second-set medical timeout.

Bouchard tried to carry on, but it was hardly an ideal time to try to win a tennis match. The No. 7-seeded Bouchard became the latest top woman to bow out at this surprise-filled U.S. Open, beaten 7-6 (2), 6-4 Monday by 17th-seeded Ekaterina Makarova of Russia in the fourth round.

It ended Bouchard's streak of making at least the semifinals at each Grand Slam tournament this year. That included a runner-up finish at Wimbledon in July; the 20-year-old Canadian is only 4-4 since then.

"I definitely felt a lot of outside expectations and pressure to win matches. I felt more like it's normal if I win and it's a bit more of a disaster when I lose," Bouchard said. "But that's something that I need to block out."

In muggy air, with the temperature in the high 80s (above 30 Celsius), Bouchard began having trouble from the middle of the first set and was checked on by a trainer during the changeover after the second set's fifth game. During that delay, Makarova cooled down by putting ice bags on herself.

Asked what went through her mind during Bouchard's medical break, Makarova smiled.

"Well, actually, I thought, `Thanks,' because I also was tired," Makarova said with a smile. "It was really (helpful) for me also."

It's not the first time Bouchard has been affected by heat, saying it happened at last year's U.S. Open, too, and as a junior at the Australian Open.

"Once in a while, I get a little bit light-headed," Bouchard said. "That's what happens."

Her exit means that for the first time since 1977, eight women will have filled the eight finalist slots at a season's Grand Slam tournaments.

Petra Kvitova defeated Bouchard at Wimbledon; Kvitova departed in the third round in Flushing Meadows against 145th-ranked qualifier Aleksandra Krunic, who tried to pull off another shocker against two-time U.S. Open runner-up Victoria Azarenka but couldn't quite do it. Azarenka, a two-time Australian Open champion, took four of the last five games to win 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 Monday night.

AP

Eugenie Bouchard, of Canada, wraps her head in an ice-packed towel between games against Ekaterina Makarova, of Russia, during the fourth round of the 2014 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Monday, Sept. 1, 2014, in New York.

At the French Open in June, Maria Sharapova edged Simona Halep; Sharapova lost to Caroline Wozniacki in the fourth round in New York, and Halep went out in the third round against qualifier Mirjana Lucic-Baroni.

And at the Australian Open in January, Li Na beat Dominika Cibulkova; Li didn't even enter the U.S. Open because of a knee injury, and Cibulkova was stunned by 15-year-old American CiCi Bellis in the first round.

While Makarova is into the U.S. Open quarterfinals for the second year in a row, Bouchard's early-for-her major exit certainly fits with the way things have gone the past eight days. Of the top 10 seeded women, only two remain: No. 1 Serena Williams and No. 10 Wozniacki.

The top-seeded man, Novak Djokovic, played mostly mistake-free tennis, making only 19 unforced errors and facing only two break points—both saved—in a 6-1, 7-5, 6-4 victory over 22nd-seeded Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany.

Djokovic, the 2011 U.S. Open champion, earned a spot in the quarterfinals at the U.S. Open for the eighth year in a row—and at a 22nd consecutive Grand Slam tournament overall. The last time Djokovic was eliminated before the quarterfinals at a major was a third-round loss to Kohlschreiber at the 2009 French Open.

Djokovic now meets two-time major champion Andy Murray, who got past No. 9 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 7-5, 7-5, 6-4.

In fourth-round men's matches Monday night, No. 3 Stan Wawrinka brushed off a tumble into the stands and beat No. 16 Tommy Robredo 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (7), 6-2, before No. 5 Milos Raonic played No. 10 Kei Nishikori.

Williams got to her first Grand Slam quarterfinal of 2014 by overwhelming 50th-ranked Kaia Kanepi of Estonia 6-3, 6-3 Monday. Williams has lost 17 games all told—the eighth time she's made it to the U.S. Open quarterfinals dropping that many or fewer.

One of the few glitches came when she tried to serve for the match at 5-2 in the second set, double-faulting twice in a row and getting broken. That, Williams acknowledged, came from feeling a bit of self-imposed pressure after losing in the Australian Open's fourth round, French Open's second round, and Wimbledon's third round.

"I think I felt it in my service game," Williams said. "I'm like, `Can I please make it to a Grand Slam quarters this year?'"

Pursuing a third straight U.S. Open title and 18th Grand Slam championship, Williams has avoided potential matchups against Kvitova, Bouchard and past major champions Ana Ivanovic and Sam Stosur, who beat Williams in the 2011 U.S. Open final.

Williams is 5-0 against her next opponent, No. 11 Flavia Pennetta of Italy.

"Of course, she's better than me, but if I still believe I can beat her," Pennetta said, "maybe if she doesn't have a good day, I can do that."

Spain, Greece move to 3-0, Senegal upsets Croatia

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

AP
Croatia's Ante Tomic, right, in action with Argentina's Ante Tomic, left, as Luis Scola, bottom right, looks on during the Group B Basketball World Cup match between Argentina and Croatia in Seville, Spain, Sunday, Aug. 31, 2014.

Spain and Greece are headed to the round of 16, and Senegal is in position to join them after shaking up Group B with an upset Monday at the Basketball World Cup.

The Spanish earned a trip to their capital by routing Brazil in a battle of unbeatens to take the lead in Group A, while Greece clinched the first spot in Madrid by improving to 3-0 earlier in the day.

The U.S. was off, a night after rallying from a halftime deficit to beat Turkey.

Pau Gasol of the Chicago Bulls had 26 points and nine rebounds for Spain in its 82-63 victory over Brazil in Granada. The hosts had already routed Iran and Egypt by a combined 67 points, but have difficult first-round games remaining against France and Serbia following Tuesday's rest day.

Greece matched Spain for the overall best record by beating Puerto Rico 90-79 in Seville, and has won each of its games by double digits. The Greeks, who needed a wild card into the tournament, will next face a Croatia team that was stunned 77-75 Sunday by Senegal.

That dropped the Croatians (2-1) into a three-way tie for second with Argentina and the Senegalese, who pulled off the kind of surprising victory that Ukraine coach Mike Fratello predicted there would be more of a day earlier.

"There are going to be a number of upsets in this tournament, I think, in the four groups, because there is such balance and a team that loses one night is going to come back the next night and play great," he said after Finland rebounded from its 59-point loss to the U.S. by beating his team.

The Americans avoided what would have been the biggest upset by beating Turkey 98-77 on Sunday, pulling away after trailing 40-35 at halftime and leading only 66-60 after three quarters. They return Tuesday to face New Zealand, which is 0-2 but was beating Turkey for nearly most of its opening game before faltering down the stretch.

"I saw the Turkey game, but I was watching Turkey when I was watching, and it looked like New Zealand should have won, or was in a good position," U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "So if they had a chance to beat Turkey, they must be pretty good."

Group D was also off Monday. Those teams are back in action Tuesday, while Groups A and B are off. Every team plays Wednesday and Thursday to wrap up pool play, with the round of 16 beginning Saturday in Madrid and Barcelona.

GROUP A

Spain 82, Brazil 63

Sergio Rodriguez had 12 points and Juan Carlos Navarro 10 for Spain. Leandro Barbosa led Brazil (2-1) with 11 and Cleveland's Anderson Varejao had 10.

Serbia 83, Iran 70

Nemanja Bjelica had 18 points and 10 rebounds for Serbia (2-1), which overcame 29 points from former NBA center Hamed Haddadi. Iran is 0-3.

France 94, Egypt 55

The French (2-1) jumped out to a big early lead and put four players in double figures in the rout. Ibrahim Elgammal led winless Egypt with 12 points.

GROUP B

Senegal 77, Croatia 75

Gorgui Dieng of the Minnesota Timberwolves had 27 points and eight rebounds for Senegal, which has won two in a row after losing to Greece. Bojan Bogdanovic of the Brooklyn Nets and Philadelphia 76ers' lottery pick Dario Saric each scored 15 points for Croatia.

Greece 90, Puerto Rico 79

Nikos Zisis shot 7 of 9 and scored 19 points for the Greeks, while the Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmopo had 15. Renaldo Balkman scored 23 and J.J. Barea added 21 for winless Puerto Rico, which played without injured veteran Carlos Arroyo.

Argentina 85, Philippines 81

Luis Scola of the Indiana Pacers had 19 points for Argentina (2-1). Andray Blatche, who played last season with the Brooklyn Nets, finished with 14 points and 15 rebounds for Philippines (0-3).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	79	57	.581	—
New York	70	65	.519	8½
Toronto	69	67	.507	10
Tampa Bay	67	71	.486	13
Boston	60	77	.438	19½
Central Division				
Kansas City	75	61	.551	—
Detroit	75	62	.547	½
Cleveland	70	65	.519	4½
Chicago	62	75	.453	13½
Minnesota	60	77	.438	15½
West Division				
Los Angeles	83	53	.610	—
Oakland	79	58	.577	4½
Seattle	73	63	.537	10
Houston	59	79	.428	25
Texas	53	84	.387	30½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	78	58	.574	—
Atlanta	72	66	.522	7
Miami	67	69	.493	11
New York	64	74	.464	15
Philadelphia	63	74	.460	15½
Central Division				
St. Louis	74	63	.540	—
Milwaukee	73	64	.533	1
Pittsburgh	71	66	.518	3
Cincinnati	66	71	.482	8
Chicago	62	76	.449	12½
West Division				
Los Angeles	77	61	.558	—
San Francisco	75	63	.543	2
San Diego	65	71	.478	11
Arizona	57	80	.416	19½
Colorado	55	83	.399	22

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TBK

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free throws to preserve the lead and the win.

In the second game, TBK gained cushion in the third period for the 4-point winning margin.

Behind by a hair at the end of the second canto, 42-43, TBK had its best production in the third (31 points) to grab the driver's seat, 73-65.

Lerio Pagarao provided the spark on TBK's rally early in the third quarter, scoring 10 points, while Rodney Catalla closed out the quarter with back-to-back triples to steal the upper hand from Gliders. TBK went on to keep the lead in the fourth with Pagarao making timely baskets in the homestretch, scoring the team's last five markers.

Pagarao paced TBK with his 23 points and drew enough support from three of his teammates. Ivan Devero added 16, while Catalla and Ed Pangelinan contributed 14 and 12, respectively, Melvin Cadiang had 23 points to lead Gliders, which played without Jun Estolas.

First Game

Destroyers 93 – Esdrelon 28, Duenas 25, Guiab 20, Santos 5, Fernandez 3, Bautista 3, De Dios 2.

Maplas 87 – Mendoza 25, Berline 16, Fernando 15, M. Usi 8, Guiang 8, Aniciete 4, Odicta 3, Cortez 2, Claveria 2.

Scoring by quarters: 27-22, 49-37, 70-64, 93-87.

Second Game

TBK Mechanics 88 – Pagarao 23, I. Devero 16, Catalla 14, Pangelinan 12, Fitial 7, N. Mateo 6, Velasco 2.

Gliders 84 – Cadiang 23, Vilanueva 14, Demapan 12, Cabrera 14, Palacios 10, Saturno 7.

Scoring by quarters: 21-23, 42-43, 73-65, 88-84.

FIESTA

From Page 28

halftime spread.

Fiesta just cruised past Shirley's-Century from there and enjoyed several 20-point leads until the final buzzer.

Esdrelon scattered 28 markers, Pagarao finished with 27 points, while Ong chipped in 20 more at the offensive end.

Only two players scored in double figures for Shirley's-Century with Sean Rabasto finishing with 20 while Rommel Usi added 12.

Fiesta Resort 87 – Esdrelon 28, Pagarao 27, Ong 20, Matsutaro 6, Demafelix 2, Galag, Quizon 2.

Shirley's/Century 59 – Rabasto 20, Usi 12, Sedllo 9, Dela Rosa 8, Aguilar 6, Laxa 2, Manibusan 2.

KIM

From Page 28

giate Athletic Association Division II regionals.

The Marianas Baptist Academy alum, who was also named the 2013-2014 RMAC preseason Golfer of the Year, added the RMAC award to her growing list of accolades in her young playing career.

Kim, according to the ThunderWolves' official website, thus became the first player in RMAC and CSU-Pueblo—the reigning women's division conference champions—history to earn All-America honors.

She posted season averages of 75.1 strokes and a .952 head-to-head winning percentage on her way to a second straight NCAA regional tournament.

Aside from topping three tournaments, Kim finished tied for second twice, and placed third, seventh, and eighth once. She also joined teammate and three-time All-RMAC awardee Julie Sanchez to win the preseason all-conference team honors.

Kim, in her freshman year as a ThunderWolf, earned her first RMAC Golfer of the Year award and the RMAC Freshman of the Year crown.

Kim, the youngest in Shirley and Young Kim's three children, also qualified for the NCAA Division II national championships as an individual where she finished 28th overall with a 20-over-par score after four rounds.

CSU-Pueblo, who will be shooting for a third RMAC crown in four seasons, also topped the preseason coaches poll collecting 12 first place votes and 113 points overall.

The ThunderWolves will kick off the 22014-2015 season when they host the Wolfpack Invitational at the Pueblo Country Club on September 8 and 9.

Colorado Mesa (100), Western New Mexico (95), Metro State (88), Regis (78), Colorado Christian (75), UC-Colorado Springs (72), Adams State (62), Black Hills State (40), Chadron State (28), Fort Lewis (25), and South Dakota Mines (16) completed the 2014 RMAC Women's Golf Preseason Coaches Poll.

NMIFA thanks former technical director

GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
Johann Noetzel, left, shakes hand with the captain of Macau Men's National Team before their game in the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup Preliminary Round 1 in Guam in July this year.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Federation thanked its former technical director Johann Noetzel for his significant contributions to CNMI football.

Noetzel is now with Guam Football Association, serving as its goalkeeper director and the goalkeeping coach of the Guam Men's National Team.

"On behalf of NMIFA and the members of the CNMI football community, I would like to thank Johann for creating and implanting programs that helped develop the sport in the Commonwealth, for his leadership, and for being part of a historic moment in CNMI football," NMIFA president Jerry Tan said.

"In his tenure as technical director of NMIFA, he was able to bring valuable changes and improvements to CNMI football, particularly with its youth and grassroots programs.

Noetzel, a former MLS player (Dallas Burn/FC Dallas), established the NMI Goalkeeper Development Program, which helped train a host of young goalkeepers in the CNMI. One of them is Christopher Aninzo, who was part of the CNMI U14 National Team that gave the Commonwealth its first win in an Asian Football Confederation-sanctioned tournament after slipping past rival Guam, 1-0, in the FC U14 Championship 2014 Qualifiers in Beijing, China, in April 2013.

The former All-American goalkeeper at Seattle Pacific University also created the NMI National Elite Academy (NEA), which is for U8, U10, and U12 players. The academy provides elite coaching for selected players with Noetzel leading each cycle (three cycles in one year) and drawing assistance from one member of NMIFA's pool of coaches. Sixty players enrolled in the academy and several of them later became members of the youth national teams.

Noetzel thanked NMIFA for supporting him in instituting these programs.

"I want to say thank you to people of the NMI, the football community, president Jerry Tan, vice president Vickie Izuka, the NMIFA Exco: and many other leaders and sponsors in the NMI for their support of me and my programs and of the NMIFA in general during my tenure here. I feel, under the guidance and vision of president Jerry Tan, I was able to accomplish some very important goals I had set out to do," Noetzel said.

"I also want to thank Triple J Motors, Choco Milk (MARPAC), and the Japan Football Association for their dedicated support of the program. Also a special thanks to IT&E for its support to the NMI youth/senior national teams," he added.

Noetzel left the island late last month after helping the Blue Ayuyus earn a historic win in the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup Preliminary Round 1. The CNMI defeated Macau, 2-1, to post its first international victory in the men's competition.

"International wins at the youth and senior levels have catapulted the NMI on to the AFC radar. I am encouraged by the progress Saipan and the NMI has made over the last three years since my return. Saipan will always be in my heart wherever I am in the world. I will continue my international playing career with the CNMI Men's National Team and look forward to our next AFC competition in September 2015. I am extremely grateful for my time here with NMIFA and the people of the NMI. The progress and the development of the FA under president Jerry Tan have been impressive. I believe NMIFA serves as a model for other organizations on the island and there is no better avenue of positive human development than through the beautiful game of football. Good luck NMIFA and thank you," Noetzel said.

PIC Chefs eliminate Hawaiian Rock

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club's Chefs pushed Hawaiian Rock to the exit door after notching a 74-62 win in their playoff game in the 2014 Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood Basketball League-Docomo Pacific Cup, last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

With the victory, PIC Chefs advanced to the semifinals and will play unbeaten and top-ranked Blue Haus in the first semis game today at 6:30pm. Hawaiian Rock joined I Love Saipan and Degree in the showers.

Hawaiian Rock, which defeated PIC Chefs in the round-robin regular season, failed to make it two in a row against the latter and was eliminated as it could not sustain a good start and scored no more than 14 points in each of the last three quarters. Hawaiian Rock led by 7 after the first period, 24-17, and was still on top by 6 at the break, 31-37, before PIC Chefs took over in the second half to steal the victory.

PIC Chefs doubled up Hawaiian Rock in the third period, 22-11, to take a 5-point cushion, 53-48, entering the final canto.

Rodney Catalla and Jun Tabora connived in the third-quarter recovery, combining for 16 of their total output in the period. Catalla drained three triples, while Tabora contributed 7 markers. Dante Tabora registered the other 6 points of PIC Chefs in the pivotal third.

Hawaiian Rock lost the lead in the third, as no player on its roster hit more than one basket in the meltdown. It then tried to regain the upper hand, but committed more fouls than baskets. PIC Chefs, on the other hand, capitalized on Hawaiian Rock's inability to play honest defense, drilling 11 free throws, nine of them came in succession past the halfway mark of the fourth quarter.

Catalla converted three of those charities and added two more triples to help PIC Chef record a 12-point winning margin. Jun Tabora scored all his 7 markers from the foul line to finish with a game-high 25 points, while Catalla backed him up with his 24 points. Dante Tabora and Butch Sublemente were the only two other PIC Chef players to make it to the board, chipping in 12 each.

Robert Guiang led Hawaiian Rock with his 15 markers, but his points were scattered and the rest of his teammates could not hit baskets in streaks to lose grip of the lead in the second half. Art Salazar was the only other Hawaiian Rock player to score in twin digits with 10 and 6 of them came early in the first period when his team was on top.

PIC Chefs 74 – Tabora 25, Catalla 24, Sublemente 12, Tabora 12.

Hawaiian Rock 62 – Guiang 15, Salazar 10, Tiples 8, Abaygar 7, Palacios 7, Dela Cruz 4, Lopez 4, Tengco 2, Saplan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-24, 31-37, 53-48, 74-62.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Players of PIC Chefs pose for a photo before playing in an earlier game in the Emon Lodge-Docomo Pacific Cup last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Tee-ball ends 2014 with a bang

The Natibu Sports Association treated more than 50 kids to a fun-filled Labor Day weekend when the 2014 Cover Home Tee-ball League wrapped its season on last Saturday at the Capitol Hill Baseball Field.

Kids competed in various events like the ball toss, relay, tug-of-war, and the home run derby. All participants received school supplies and other giveaways as prizes.

The Little Ballers led the team winners after topping the tug-of-war event, while M.J. Tomokane, Jack Kalen, and Joell Borja were the Top 3 finishers in the Home Run Derby.

All participants then received individual trophies for their effort and practice of fair play during the entire season

League coordinator and NSA official Claire Sablan said seeing the smile on all the kids, hearing their laughter, and seeing them enjoy the event were enough consolation.

"All the hard work and sleepless nights to assure the success of the event was all worth it. The weather even cooperated and allowed everyone to have fun," said Sablan.

"We just want to introduce the kids to the fundamentals of baseball in the hopes that most or some of them will move onto the Saipan Little League. At the same time teach them the values of sportsmanship and practice of fair play."

Sablan added that teaching the kids to have a healthy lifestyle is also their goal. "We want the kids to stay away from drugs and alcohol, eat their fruits and vegetables and to remain fit and healthy."

"I'm thankful to all the sponsors who donated their time and resources, and to all the parents who continue to guide and encourage these kids," said Sablan.

Aside from the Little Ballers, the Bad Newz Braves, Little Rascalz, Little Zogai, Little Rookies, Little Sluggers, Mighty Jets, and Rug Rats are the competing teams.

Tee-ball is a team sport that introduces kids to the basics of basketball and softball. The ball is not pitched and the child hits the ball on top of a stationary tee. ***(Jon Perez)***

JON PEREZ
The Top 3 winners in the Home Run Derby pose for a photo. From right, champion M.J. Tomokane, second placer Jack Kalen, and third placer Joell Borja.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

TBK, Destroyers keep q'finals hopes alive

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

TBK Mechanics and Destroyers stayed in contention for the two automatic quarterfinal berths in the DL Corp Invitational Basketball League Season 4 after outclassing separate foes last Friday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Destroyers downed Maplas in the curtain-raiser, 93-87, while TBK prevailed over Gliders in the nightcap, 88-84. TBK and Destroyers now hold 4-4 and 3-4 records, respectively, and are battling the two quarterfinals seats against Gliders (4-3) and defending champion Island Floral (3-4). The outright quarterfinals tickets will be given to the No. 3 and 4 finishers in the round-robin, nine-team league, while the two semis slots are allotted to the Top 2 placers. The No. 5 to 8 placers will then play in the first round of the playoffs and fight for two remaining quarterfinal berths, while the last finisher will be eliminated.

Destroyers leaned on the trio of Elmer Esdrelon, Matt Duenas, and Junar Guiab to boost its chances for the contested quarterfinals seats. The three players scored at least 20 points with Esdrelon firing 28 and Duenas chipping in 25. Guiab added 20. They combined for 15 points in the second quarter where Destroyers took control of the match, turning a two-point cushion to a 12-point advantage, 49-37.

Duenas and Esdrelon added 7 more points each in the third quarter to thwart Maplas' comeback bid and kept the upper hand, 70-64. Destroyers' 1-2 punch remained on target in the fourth and alternately hit crucial

See TBK on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Lerio Pagarao, seen here driving against a Blue Haus defender, scored 23 points in TBK Mechanics' 88-84 win over Gliders in the DL Corp. caging last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Kim earns 2nd RMAC Golfer of the Year award

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Former Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands junior golfer Leina Kim won her second Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Golfer of the Year award after helping the Colorado State University-Pueblo ThunderWolves to win Division II title.

Kim, an incoming junior at CSU-Pueblo, had one of her finest seasons since joining the ThunderWolves two years ago. She won three individual tournament crowns to earn a spot on the National Colle-

See KIM on Page 26

CSU-PUEBLO FACEBOOK PAGE
Leina Kim lines up a putt in one of the Colorado State University-Pueblo ThunderWolves' practice rounds in time for the upcoming Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference season.

Fiesta bounces back, thrashes Shirley's

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Top seed Fiesta Resort kept its title hopes alive after rolling past sister team Shirley's Coffee Shop-Century Hotel, 87-59, in the playoff round of the 2014 Budweiser Inter-Hotel Basketball League Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Fiesta thus avoided elimination after being ambushed by defending champion Hyatt, 83-59, last week to join their tormentors, Shirley's-Century, and Kanoa Resort, with identical 1-1 cards with all four teams needing to win their last games to avoid elimination.

Mariana Resort, which suffered a 106-37 thrashing from Pacific Islands Club (PIC) last week, was the first team to exit the league after failing to show up in its scheduled game against Kanoa also last Thursday.

World Resort, which was still playing Hyatt at press time, and PIC both hold 1-0 cards in the playoffs.

Elmer Esdrelon, Lerio Pagarao, and DJay Ong alternated in piling up the points for Fiesta Resort, which pulled away early in the match and was never threatened after that as Shirley's-Century showed little resistance all game long.

Esdrelon and Pagarao combined for 20 of their team's 24 points in the first quarter with Fiesta limiting Shirley's-Century to a season-low 8 markers.

Fiesta Resort did not slow down after that and consistently burned the hoops in the second quarter to erect a 50-21

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Fiesta Resort's Elmer Esdrelon pulls up a jumper as World Resort's Jomar Danas watches helplessly in their regular season game in the Inter-Hotel cage league.